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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Yeltsin Delivers Statement on Disarmament *[Moscow TV]* 1
Nuclear Brain Drain Issue Causes 'Anxiety' 3
News Conference Held *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 3
U.S. Prevention Tactics *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 4
Western Anxieties Cited *[IZVESTIYA 28 Jan]* 4
'Seriously Alarmed' *[Russian TV]* 5
U.S. Money for CIS Disarmament 'Insufficient' *[IZVESTIYA 25 Jan]* 5
Chemical Weapons Elimination Group Formed *[POSTFACTUM]* 6
Pentagon Said To Push for End to ABM Treaty *[PRAVDA 28 Jan]* 6
'Nuclear Briefcase' Designer Interviewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 28 Jan]* 7

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Former Republics' Admission to CSCE Debated 13
No Decision Yet *[TASS]* 13
Ten Republics Recommended *[TASS]* 13
Minister Estimates 500 Scientists Have Left *[TASS]* 13
Division of Armed Forces, Paris Treaty Viewed *[Moscow Radio]* 13
WGF Chief, Mecklenburg Premier on Withdrawal *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 Jan]* 14
Republics Trail Russia in Repaying Debts *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 14
Argentina Willing To Take 100,000 Settlers *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 15
Overview of Egyptian Visits, Agreements *[PRAVDA 28 Jan]* 15

RUSSIA

International Affairs

Yeltsin, Black Sea Fleet Officers Confer *[TASS]* 16
Yeltsin, Baker Discuss Agenda for U.S. Trip *[TASS]* 16
Kozyrev Previews Yeltsin Speech to UN *[Russian TV]* 16
Shakhray Postpones Baltic Withdrawal Talks *[Vilnius Radio]* 17
IZVESTIYA Reviews Clash at Cuban Embassy *[28 Jan]* 17
Delegation in Israel Agrees on Joint Projects *[INTERFAX]* 18
Labor Minister Confers With German Minister *[PRAVDA 28 Jan]* 18
Cooperation Plans With Germany Outlined *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 18

Arab-Israeli Talks

Conference Continues; 'Panel Groups' Meet 19
'Regional Cooperation' Stressed *[TASS]* 20
Kozyrev, Baker Assess First Day of Talks *[TASS]* 20
Egyptian Foreign Minister Interviewed *[Moscow International]* 20
Israel's Levi on PLO Role, Scientists' Future *[TASS]* 21
Remarks on Central Asia *[INTERFAX]* 22
Jordanian Minister: Levi Remarks 'Regrettable' *[TASS]* 22
Meets With Kozyrev *[TASS]* 22
Tunisian, Turkish Representatives Speak *[TASS]* 23
Japan Confirms 'Active Part' in Mideast Peace *[TASS]* 23

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Decree on Chernobyl Effects in Bryansk *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 23
Yeltsin Appoints Environment Council Chairman *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 24
Decree Seeks Assistance in Olympic Training *[TASS]* 24
Yeltsin Meets Medical Workers' Demands *[Moscow International]* 24
Starovoytova Said Possible Defense Minister *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 28 Jan]* 24
Yeltsin Adviser Starovoytova Describes Work *[KURANTY 28 Jan]* 24
Yeltsin Adviser Bogomolov Interviewed *[Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO 24 Jan]* 26
Justice Minister Outlines New Penal Code *[TASS]* 27
Foreign Ministry Appointments Reported *[MOSCOW NEWS FAX DIGEST 28 Jan]* 28
Gaydar on Defense Conversion Effect on Salaries *[Radio Rossii]* 28
Further Gaydar Remarks *[Radio Rossii]* 28
Group, Fleet Transferred to Jurisdiction *[INTERFAX]* 29
Sharp Cuts in Military Budget Planned *[Russian TV]* 29
Putchists Linked to ANT 'Tank Scandal' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 10 Jan]* 29
Interior Ministry Concentrates on New Tasks *[INTERFAX]* 31
Registered Crimes in 1991 Surpasses 2 Million *[INTERFAX]* 32
Commentary Views Demands To Regulate Press *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 25 Jan]* 32
'Free Russia' Party Not To Attend Congress *[INTERFAX]* 33
Democratic Party Leader Interviewed on Goals *[Prague RUDE PRAVO 23 Jan]* 33
'Social-Liberal Association' Forms in Moscow *[TASS]* 34
Parties Gather To Protest Yeltsin's Policies *[Moscow TV]* 34
Democratic Reforms Congress Postponed *[INTERFAX]* 34
Poll Conducted on Yeltsin's Popularity *[Radio Rossii]* 35
People Polled on Prices, Government Policies *[INTERFAX]* 35
Gaydar Claims Economy Better Than Expected *[IZVESTIYA 29 Jan]* 35
State Adviser Explains Purpose of New Fund *[Moscow TV]* 37
Directive Issued To End Trade Monopolies *[Russian TV]* 38
New Railroads Minister Interviewed on CIS *[Moscow TV]* 39
Railroad Heads Discuss Transportation, Fares *[Russian TV]* 39
Government, Union Social Insurance Resolution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 39
Privatization Seminar Opens at Business School *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 40
Bank Warned Against Illegal Currency Deals *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 40
Administrations Instructed To Privatize Trade *[INTERFAX]* 41
Economist Argues Need for Monetary Reform *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 41
Coal, Oil Prices Expected To Be Freed 1 Apr *[Russian TV]* 42
Critical Situation With Oil Supplies Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Jan]* 43

Supreme Soviet

Commission Urges 'Firm Stand' on Ukraine *[POSTFACTUM]* 44
'Wide Speculation' Noted *[Moscow TV]* 45
Budget Becomes Main Focus of 24 Jan Session 45
Gaydar Delivers Report *[Moscow Radio]* 45
First Quarter Figures Detailed *[INTERFAX]* 46
Deputies Critical *[Moscow TV]* 46
Head of Commission Expounds *[INTERFAX]* 47
Debate Reveals Plight of Military *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Jan]* 47
Law Adopted on Kray, Oblast Administration *[Radio Rossii]* 48
Intelligence Community Funds Frozen *[Radio Rossii]* 48
Support for Armenia During Tension Debated *[Russian TV]* 48
Commodity Exchange Activity To Be Discussed *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 48
Resolution Signed on Cash Supply Normalization *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 49
Resolution Adopted on Procurator's Office *[Moscow Radio]* 49
Khasbulatov Attack on Government Observed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 15 Jan]* 50

Regional Affairs

Further on Khasbulatov's Visit to Yakutia *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 51
Returns to Moscow *[Radio Rossii]* 51

Kuzbass Miners Decide Not To Strike *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 52
Deputies View Situation *[Moscow Radio]* 52
Bashkortostan Issues Ultimatum *[Moscow Radio]* 52
Murmansk Sailors Plan 1 Feb Strike *[TASS]* 52
Murmansk Opposes Nuclear Submarine Salvaging *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Jan]* 52
St. Petersburg Trade Unions Call Off Strike *[INTERFAX]* 53
Yeltsin Decree on Komi's Economic Autonomy *[Radio Rossii]* 53
New Moscow Regime To Promote Economic Reforms *[INTERFAX]* 53
Moscow Oblast Instructions on Private Property *[Moscow Radio]* 54
Communists Lay Claim to Smolnyy Building *[TASS]* 54
Tula Factories To Sell Weapons Directly *[Radio Rossii]* 54
Tomsk Questions Uranium Processing Contract *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Jan]* 54
Tatarstan To Hold National Conference 1-2 Feb *[INTERFAX]* 54
Tatar Democrats Wary of 'Power Strucutures' *[INTERFAX]* 55
Kabardino-Balkar Leader Decrees Gun Control *[PRAVDA 23 Jan]* 55
Irkutsk To Begin Food Rationing 1 Feb *[POSTFACTUM]* 55
Bashkiria's First Independent Radio Set Up *[Radio Rossii]* 55
Russian Germans View Autonomy Issue *[TASS]* 56

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives on Working Visit *[Kiev International]* 57
World Bank Experts Arrive, Hold Talks *[Kiev Radio]* 57
Foreign Policy Discussed During Press Briefing *[Kiev Radio]* 57

National Affairs

Kravchuk Seeks More Power, Reviews CIS Ties *[INTERFAX]* 57
Three Military District Commanders Replaced *[IZVESTIYA 29 Jan]* 58
Kravchuk on Ties With Russia, Nuclear Issue *[TASS]* 58
Kravchuk Says Republic Honors CIS Treaties *[Moscow TV]* 59
Party Calls For Secession From Commonwealth *[Kiev Radio]* 59
Defense Minister Morozov on Future of Military *[Kiev Radio]* 59
Commentary Views Opposition to Armed Forces *[Kiev Radio]* 60
Council Seeks Stronger Ties With Krasnoyarsk *[POSTFACTUM]* 60
Commission Orders Prices Under State Control *[Kiev Radio]* 61
Impact of Coupons on Price Increases Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 61
Unions, Industry Meet on Labor Unrest *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 22 Jan]* 62

WESTERN REGION

Moldova

Parliament Grants New Powers to President *[TASS]* 63
Snegur Expected To Present New Government *[INTERFAX]* 63
President Appoints Ambassador to Romania *[INTERFAX]* 63
Reunification Conference With Romania Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 63
Romanian Envoy Comments on Reunification Issue *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 15 Jan]* 64
Parliament Votes To Introduce Currency *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 65
IMF Says Membership Based on New Currency *[INTERFAX]* 66
Law Sends Ruble Into Black Market Tailspin *[INTERFAX]* 66
Government Acts To Protect Consumer Market *[TASS]* 66
High Prices Lead to Unsold Output *[TASS]* 66
Cabinet, Local Leaders Discuss Economic Reform *[Kishinev Radio]* 67
Income Indexation Procedures Established *[Moscow Radio]* 67

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Ministry Denies Nuclear Arms Trade With Iran *[TASS]* 68
Foreign Trade, Activities Liberalized *[Moscow Radio]* 68
Conference on Baykonyr Cosmodrome Held *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 68
Conflict With Russia Ruled Out *[POSTFACTUM]* 68
Diplomatic Ties Established With South Korea *[Moscow TV]* 69
Official Comments on New Ties *[INTERFAX]* 69
Diplomatic Relations Established With Mongolia *[TASS]* 69
Envoy, Japan's Watanabe View Diplomatic Ties *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 69
IMF Membership May Take Effect in Apr *[INTERFAX]* 69
President Announces Refined Gold Production *[INTERFAX]* 69

Tajikistan

Committee Denies Weapons Deliveries to Kabul *[Dushanbe Radio]* 70
'New Provocation' Committed on Afghan Border *[Dushanbe Radio]* 70
Air Link Slated To Be Established With Iran *[INTERFAX]* 70

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Prime Minister on Fuel Crisis, Military Budget *[TASS]* 71
CIS Commander To Sue Defense Minister *[INTERFAX]* 71
Reportage on Foreign Minister's Austria Trip 71
Arrives in Vienna *[Moscow Radio]* 71
Meets With Austrian Chancellor *[TASS]* 71
Diplomatic Links Established *[TASS]* 71
Comments on Regional Problems *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 25 Jan]* 72
'Information Vacuum' in Newspapers, Broadcasting *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 72

Azerbaijan

Armenian Fire Blamed for Helicopter Crash *[INTERFAX]* 72
Mutalibov Offers Condolences *[TASS]* 73
Mission Issues Statement *[Moscow TV]* 73
Mutalibov Blames Armenia *[Moscow Radio]* 73
Government Releases 12 'Kidnapped' Armenians *[Yerevan Radio]* 73
Results of Mutalibov Visit to Turkey Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 28 Jan]* 73
Shusha Fired on From Armenian Border Villages *[TASS]* 74
Nagorno-Karabakh Parliament Elects Officials *[ARMENPRES]* 74
Independent News Agency Operates From Baku *[PRAVDA 28 Jan]* 74

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Still in Hiding; Situation Tense 74
Pilot Questioned in Tbilisi *[TASS]* 74
Supporters Refuse To Leave Plane *[Moscow Radio]* 75
Presence in Groznyy Unconfirmed *[Moscow TV]* 75
Chechen Officials Refuse Comment *[INTERFAX]* 75
Interviewed in Western Region *[TASS]* 75
Government Troops Enter Zugdidi *[TASS]* 75
Rally Held 'Without Excesses' *[TASS]* 76
Sigua on Peaceful Settlement *[Tbilisi Radio]* 76
Government, South Ossetia Said To Seek Peace 76
South Ossetians Agree To Meet *[TASS]* 76
Meeting Held *[Moscow Radio]* 76
Negotiations Possible *[TASS]* 76

Government on 'Peaceful Settlement' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 77
South Ossetian Denies Talks *[INTERFAX]* 77
Fighting Near Tskhinvali *[TASS]* 77
Importance of Military in Republic Discussed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Jan]* 77
Three Political Parties Registered *[Tbilisi Radio]* 79

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

New Leader Meets Press, Discusses Goals *[BALTFAX]* 80
Further on Continuing Search For Oil Supplies 80
Russian Pledge Signed *[BALTFAX]* 80
Agreement Reached *[Tallinn Radio]* 80
Further on Russian Agreement *[BALTFAX]* 80
Government Discusses Food, Fuel Supplies *[Tallinn Radio]* 80
Possibility of Future Talks With Russia Viewed *[Tallinn Radio]* 81
Delegation's Arrival Delayed *[BALTFAX]* 81
Conscription Legislation Passed for Males *[BALTFAX]* 81
Operations With Former Union Bank Halted *[BALTFAX]* 81
Delegation Leaves for Siberia for Coal, Oil *[BALTFAX]* 81
Diplomatic Relations Established With Albania *[Tallinn Radio]* 81

Lithuania

Sejm Views Possible Communist Coup *[Vilnius Radio]* 82
Council Adopts Law on Population Register *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 82
Government Session Discusses Economic Reform *[EKHO LITVY 17 Jan]* 82
Duties on Passports, Other Documents Amended *[EKHO LITVY 17 Jan]* 83
Russia Asked To Peacefully Resolve Conflicts *[BALTFAX]* 83
Presidium on Reaction to 'Urgent Matters' *[Vilnius International]* 84
Canada Urges Vilnius To Repay External Debt *[BALTFAX]* 84
Gold Future Still 'Undecided' by Sweden *[INTERFAX]* 84
Sweden To Support Europe Integration Aims *[Vilnius Radio]* 84
Landsbergis To Attend Forum in Switzerland *[INTERFAX]* 84
Lithuania-Poland Amity Declaration Published *[EKHO LITVY 16 Jan]* 85
Parliament Announces Baltic Tour by Quayle *[BALTFAX]* 86

Yeltsin Delivers Statement on Disarmament

LD2901104192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Statement on disarmament by Russian Federation President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin on 29 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Respected citizens of Russia: My address today is devoted to an issue of vital significance. It is a matter of practical measures by Russia in the sphere of the limitation and reduction of weapons. [Moscow TASS in English at 1119 GMT on 29 January carries a similar report on the text of Boris Yeltsin's statement on disarmament. The opening of the statement reads: "On Russia's Policy in the Field of Arms Limitation and Reduction.

["Citizens of Russia..."]

Our fundamental position is the following: Nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction in the world must be eliminated. Of course, this must be done gradually and on an equal basis. In this vitally important matter we are open to cooperation with all states and international organizations, including within the framework of the United Nations.

The measures I will speak about today have been prepared on the basis of constant interaction among member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] and in accordance with the accords reached at the meetings of their leaders in Minsk, Alma-Ata, and Moscow.

Russia considers itself the legal successor to the USSR in terms of responsibility for carrying out international obligations. We confirm all of our obligations with regard to the bilateral and multilateral accords in the sphere of arms limitation and disarmament that were signed by the Soviet Union and are in operation at the current time.

The Russian leadership confirms its adherence to the course of radical reduction of nuclear weapons, guaranteeing the maximum security of nuclear weapons and guaranteeing the security all of the facilities connected with the development, production, and operation of such weapons.

Russia is proposing an initiative on the creation of an international agency to ensure the reduction of nuclear arms. During the subsequent stages this agency could gradually take under its control the whole nuclear cycle from the mining of uranium and the production of deuterium and tritium, to the storage of waste. [The TASS version reads: "...tritium, to the dumping of nuclear waste."]

The measures we are taking in the disarmament sphere in no way undermine the defense capabilities of Russia or the CIS states. We are talking specifically about a reasonable, minimum sufficiency of nuclear and conventional arms.

This is our main principle in building the armed forces. Implementing it will make it possible to save considerable funds. These funds will be directed for civilian purposes for social issues and the implementation of reforms.

Conditions are prime today, making it possible to take a number of new, major steps in arms reduction. We are undertaking a proportion of these unilaterally, and others on a reciprocal basis.

We have done, and intend first and foremost to do the following: First, in the area of strategic offensive weapons: We will submit for ratification to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation the treaty on strategic offensive weapons. The process of ratifying this treaty has also begun in the United States. I believe that the implementation of this vital document, including its approval by Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine, should be carried out as promptly as possible. Even before the treaty on strategic offensive weapons comes into force, Russia will take a whole range of major steps aimed at cutting the strategic arsenal. About 600 land and sea-based strategic ballistic missiles, or almost 1,250 nuclear warheads, have been removed from operational readiness. A total of 130 intercontinental ballistic missile launch silos have been destroyed or are being prepared for destruction. Six nuclear submarines have been prepared for the dismantling of their missile launchers. Programs for the development or modernization of several types of strategic offensive weapons have been halted. Strategic nuclear arms deployed on the territory of the Ukraine are to be dismantled [razukomplektovany] sooner than planned. The appropriate accords have been reached.

Let me stress that this is not a case of our unilateral disarmament. Parallel steps are being taken by the United States as a goodwill measure. Now, however, we can and need to advance significantly further along this path.

Recently the following decisions have been made: The production of TU-160 and TU-95MS heavy bombers has ceased.

We are stopping the production of air-launched long-range cruise missiles [krylatyye rakety] of the existing types. We are prepared to renounce the creation of new types of such missiles on a reciprocal basis with the United States. The production of the existing types of sea-based long-range nuclear cruise missiles is ceasing. New types of such missiles will not be created.

At the same time we are prepared, on a reciprocal basis, to eliminate all existing sea-based long-range nuclear cruise missiles. We are renouncing the holding of exercises with the participation of large numbers of heavy bombers. This means that not more than 30 of them may be involved in

one exercise. The number of atomic submarines with ballistic missiles—submarine-launched nuclear ballistic missiles—which are on combat patrol has been halved and will be reduced further. We are prepared to renounce altogether the practice of combat patrol with the aid of such submarines, on a reciprocal basis. Russia will reduce the number of strategic offensive weapons on operational readiness to the agreed number within a three-year period instead of seven years.

Thus, we will arrive four years earlier at the level that is envisaged by the relevant treaty. Given that there is mutual understanding with the United States, we could proceed in this direction even faster. We are in favor of the strategic offensive weapons retained by the United States and Russia after the reduction not being aimed at Russian and U.S. targets, respectively.

Important talks with leaders of Western countries are to take place in the forthcoming days. Proposals have been prepared on new, in-depth, several-fold cuts in strategic offensive weapons, to the level of 2,000 to 2,500 strategic nuclear weapons on each of the sides. [Podgotovleny predlozheniya o novom glubokom sokrashchenii strategicheskikh nastupatelnykh vooruzheniy v neskolko raz - do 2,000-2,500 strategicheskikh yadernykh boyezaryadov u kazhdoy storony.] In doing so we hope that other nuclear powers like China, Britain, and France will join the process of real nuclear disarmament.

Second, tactical nuclear weapons: Major measures concerning their reduction have already been undertaken simultaneously with the United States.

During the recent period, production has been stopped of nuclear warheads for land-based tactical missiles, and also production of nuclear artillery shells and nuclear mines. Stocks of such nuclear devices will be eliminated. Russia is eliminating one-third of sea-based tactical nuclear weapons and one-half of nuclear warheads for anti-aircraft missiles. Measures in this direction have already been taken. We also intend to halve stocks of air-launched tactical nuclear munitions. The remaining tactical air-launched nuclear armaments could, on a reciprocal basis with the United States, be removed from combat units of the frontline tactical air force and placed in centralized storage bases.

Third, antimissile defense and space: Russia confirms its adherence to the ABM Treaty. It is an important factor in maintaining strategic stability in the world. We are ready to continue discussion without prejudice of the U.S. proposal for limiting [ogranicheniye] non-nuclear ABM systems. [The TASS version reads: We are ready to continue impartial discussion of the U.S. proposal on the limitation of non-nuclear antiballistic missile systems. Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian, First lEdition, on 30 January on pages 1 and 2 carries the text of the Yeltsin statement and renders the predeeding phras as follows: "...U.S. proposal for limited non-nuclear antiballistic..."]

Our principle is known: If it strengthens strategic stability in the world and Russia's security, we will support this approach. I also announce that Russia is ready, on the basis of reciprocity with the United States, to eliminate the existing antisatellite systems and to work out an accord to ban completely the weapons which have been specially constructed to hit satellites. We are ready jointly to work out and subsequently to create and jointly operate a global system of defense in place of SDI.

Fourth, the testing of nuclear weapons and the manufacture of fissile materials for arms purposes: Russia is resolutely in favor of a ban on all nuclear arms testing. We are faithful to the annual moratorium on nuclear explosions announced in October 1991, and we hope that other nuclear powers will likewise refrain from carrying out nuclear testing. A climate of mutual restraint would facilitate the attainment of accords on not carrying out such tests altogether, possibly curtailing the number of tests gradually. [The TASS version reads: "Fourth, nuclear weapons tests and the production of fissionable materials for military purposes: Russia emphatically favors the banning of all nuclear arms testing."]

In the interests of resolving this task once and for all, we propose to the United States that bilateral talks on further limiting the testing of nuclear arms be resumed.

Russia intends to continue fulfillment of the program for ending the production of weapons grade plutonium. Industrial reactors for making weapons grade plutonium will be stopped before the year 2000, and several of them will be stopped in 1993 under an accelerated timetable.

We confirm the offer to the United States that agreement be reached on a controlled cessation of the production of fissionable materials for weapons.

Fifth, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery: Russia confirms its obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, including those as a depository. We are counting upon the treaty being joined in as quickly as possible as non-nuclear states by Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine, and also other CIS member states. Russia states its full support for the activity of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and is in favor of the effectiveness of its guarantees being intensified.

We are taking additional steps to prevent our exports leading to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Work is now being conducted aimed at bringing Russia in line with the principle of an all-embracing IAEA guarantee as a condition of our peaceful nuclear exports. Russia, in principle, intends to join the international regime of non-proliferation of missiles and missile technology as an equal participant.

We support the efforts of the so-called Australian Group for control over chemical exports. The Russian Federation plans to adopt domestic legislation regulating the export from Russia of dual use materials, equipment,

and technology that could be used to create nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons or combat missiles. A government system to control such exports is being established. We are going to establish very close cooperation and coordination between all participating CIS states on these matters. Russia supports the guiding principles on the arms trade approved in London in October 1991.

Sixth, conventional weapons: A motion to ratify the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe has been tabled in the Russian parliament. The other CIS member states whose territory is covered by this treaty likewise attach importance to its ratification. Russia reaffirms its intention—along with the other members of the Commonwealth—to cut the actual numbers of the former USSR Armed Forces by 700,000.

Russia attaches great significance to the talks currently under way in Vienna on personnel reductions and confidence-building measures, and also to the new talks on security and cooperation in Europe. The latter could become a standing pan-European forum for seeking ways of creating a collective, pan-European security system.

In cooperation with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, Russia will press to reach an accord with China at talks regarding cuts in armed forces and armaments in the border region. A decision has been made not to hold major exercises in 1992 involving more than 13,000 men—and not just on the European part, but also on the Asiatic part of CIS territory.

We also hope that there is a possibility in the near future to sign a treaty on the open skies issue.

Seventh, chemical weapons: We are for the speediest possible conclusion, in 1992, of a global convention banning chemical weapons. This is essential in order to securely close the paths leading to the possession of chemical weapons, without detriment to the legitimate economic interests of the signatories to the convention. Russia adheres to the agreement with the United States on the non-production and elimination of chemical weapons, signed in 1990.

However, the timescale envisaged therein for the destruction of such weapons requires certain amendments. All of the chemical weapons of the former USSR are on the territory of Russia, who takes responsibility for their destruction. We are preparing an appropriate state program. We are open for cooperation in this matter with the United States and other interested countries.

Eighth, biological weapons: Russia favors the rigorous implementation of the 1972 convention banning biological weapons, and the creation of an appropriate mechanism on a multilateral basis for monitoring the implementation of measures for building confidence and openness. Considering that there is a lag in implementing the convention, I can now state that Russia is renouncing that section of provisoes concerning the possibility of the retaliatory use of biological weapons. These provisoes were made by the USSR under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 banning the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in war.

Ninth, the defense budget: Russia will continue to make substantial reductions in its defense budget, imparting a social orientation to this area. In 1990 and 1991, defense expenditure was already reduced by 20 percent in terms of comparable prices, including a 30 percent reduction for purchases of weapons and equipment. In 1992, we intend to reduce military expenditure by another 10 percent in terms of 1991 prices. The volume of weapons purchases this year will be reduced by approximately half compared with last year.

Tenth, conversion: Russia welcomes international cooperation in the area of conversion of military production. Russia favors faster work in this regard. On our part, we will encourage this cooperation by creating a most favored treatment system and by establishing tax benefits for relevant joint projects. [The TASS version reads: "On our part, we will encourage such cooperation by giving priority to and providing tax breaks for relevant joint projects."]

Esteemed citizens of Russia, I have just set out a plan of action for the Russian Federation concerning the issues of arms reductions and disarmament. I hope it will meet with your support and with understanding on the part of all CIS peoples. I am convinced that it is fully in keeping with the interests of our country and other states of the world. If it is possible to implement it, our life will not only become more calm and secure, but also qualitatively better.

Several hours ago, U.S. President Bush addressed the U.S. people and proposed cuts of nuclear potential. We are constantly engaged in mutual consultations on these issues in preliminary terms. We are engaged in a dialogue on the practical implementation of this line and the initiatives that have been proposed. The closeness of the positions of both sides is noteworthy. Therein lies a guarantee of success on the path of reducing offensive nuclear arms.

Thank you for your attention.

Nuclear Brain Drain Issue Causes 'Anxiety'

News Conference Held

PM2801125892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 92 First Edition p 7

["Commentary" by Sergey Panasenko: "About the Nuclear Rumors"]

[Text] Rumors that nuclear technologies from the former USSR are "spreading" around the "Third World" countries along with experts who had access to nuclear secrets are without foundation. So said Andrey Gagarinskiy, deputy director of the Atomic Energy Institute, at a news conference at the institute. He knows of only two nuclear scientists who have left the country other than through official channels (one to Israel and one to the FRG), and neither of them is now doing serious work in his field.

However, he gave no guarantees that a spontaneous leak of nuclear technologies from Russia to the neighboring states will not take place in future, especially in view of the dire circumstances of scientific institutions and scientists. "The former barriers in the shape of special institutions that used to prevent exits now scarcely exist," Andrey Gagarinskiy said, "and it is no problem for a good specialist to leave."

And it is becoming clear that there is somewhere for them to go. It is not only that a large number of "third world" countries are actively pursuing their own nuclear research programs. The fact is that in a number of countries those programs were set up and developed with the active participation and support of the USSR, and thus Soviet nuclear scientists may well feel "at home" in Libya, Iraq, or Cuba.

Specialists at the Atomic Energy Institute who were present at the press conference assured us with one voice that the reactors built with our participation in interesting countries like Libya and Iraq are not suitable for the production of uranium for bombs. It would be nice to believe that. But it cannot be denied that the knowledge acquired in the course of building and servicing these reactors could be used successfully to create and service far more powerful installations.

Vladimir Panin, a laboratory chief at the Atomic Energy Institute who was personally responsible for the construction of reactors at the Libyan research center, admitted that it never occurred to him or his colleagues to ask: Why does a country like Libya need its own atomic center? Does the capacity of some of our professionals to avoid asking too many questions of themselves and those around them explain why leaders like al-Qadhdhafi and Husayn tend to choose Soviet nuclear scientists?

U.S. Prevention Tactics

PM2801102192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 4

[IZVESTIYA Press Service report: "United States Ready To Pay Former Union Nuclear Scientists"]

[Text] The United States intends to recruit around 2,000 nuclear scientists in the former Soviet Union to ensure that they do not work for countries such as Libya and Iran.

Citing sources in the Bush administration, the LOS ANGELES TIMES states that the United States intends to pay for their work in scrapping Soviet nuclear weapons and their involvement in research aimed at the peaceful use of nuclear power.

Officials in the Bush administration and members of the U.S. Congress fear that other countries seeking to create their own nuclear arsenal might recruit leading specialists in the sphere of nuclear research work in Russia and other republics of the former USSR.

Addressing a U.S. Senate subcommittee, CIA Director Robert Gates warned that the collapse of the former superpower could create a "potentially dangerous brain drain."

It is intended to incorporate the expenditure on implementing U.S. plans regarding the scientists of the former USSR in the $400 million which the U.S. Congress is appropriating for the dismantling of the Soviet nuclear arsenal. AP also reports plans to create a multinational consortium which will see to it that nuclear scientists find work in the the sphere of nuclear research in the former Soviet Union and the West.

Western Anxieties Cited

PM2801140392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Maksim Gan: "CIA and Mossad Have Agreed Together To Keep an Eye on Our Nuclear Scientists"]

[Text] The problem of the "brain drain" and the leak of nuclear technologies from the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries is causing growing concern in the West. According to assessments by the French Institute of International Studies, between 3,000 and 5,000 Soviet scientists had access to nuclear technology. Several dozen of these are already working in Israel, nine in the United States, and two in Germany.

Western experts believe that the possible use of nuclear scientists by countries in the Near East, particularly Libya and Iran, poses a far greater danger than the proliferation of nuclear weapons themselves.

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner said in an interview with the magazine BUNTE that, according to available information, some CIS nuclear scientists have already received an invitation to work in other countries. He believes that urgent measures must be taken and that all former defense industry workers must be provided with highly-paid work.

While acknowledging that it is extremely complex to prevent nuclear scientists from leaving the former Soviet Union, Western experts propose keeping a strict account of not only nuclear warheads but also scientists.

The French newspaper LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE has reported that the United States and Israel have adopted a decision to establish close cooperation between their special services in order to monitor nuclear scientists living on the territory of the former USSR. Agents of the CIA and of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence, have begun intensified surveillance of specialists in the sphere of creating weapons of mass destruction, particularly on the territory of Central Asian republics, the newspaper maintains.

'Seriously Alarmed'

PM2801164392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Report by A. Goncharov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Goncharov] The feeling of relief in the West following the lifting of the Soviet military threat was shortlived. German Foreign Minister Genscher is already talking about the emergence of the most acute problem since the end of the "cold war." The problem in question is the fate of our nuclear arms specialists—scientists and engineers alike. Iranian emigres in Paris claim that the director of the Iranian Nuclear Energy Company has already hired a number of Soviet nuclear specialists, offering them a monthly salary of $20,000 and a $60,000 relocation allowance. NATO Secretary General Woerner has admitted that he has received information to this effect.

The West is seriously alarmed at the prospect of nuclear weapons being produced in the Third World. Its response can be expected within the next few days. Economic assistance to Commonwealth of Independent States republics may be made conditional on rigorous control over Soviet nuclear technology and specialists. The White House is looking into a proposal to hire 2,000 of our nuclear specialists for the program to dismantle nuclear warheads. Genscher favors the establishment of an international foundation to retrain Soviet defense industry specialists. This problem may be raised in the UN Security Council. While in London, New York, and Ottawa, Yeltsin will have to furnish specific answers to the fears of his partners in the talks.

Meanwhile, the French JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE writes, agents of the CIA and Mosad, the Israeli secret service, are already closely shadowing Soviet specialists in the field of mass destruction weapons, especially on the territory of Central Asian Republics.

U.S. Money for CIS Disarmament 'Insufficient'

PM2801125992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by Stanislav Kondrashov: "Dollars for Nuclear Disarmament Seek Employment in CIS States"]

[Text] "Is this a gift?" Ambassador Aleksey Obukhov tried to ascertain. U.S. Under Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew replied in a very American manner: "I do not like the word 'gift.' Regard it as an investment."

As has already been reported repeatedly, Washington is prepared to invest (gratis!) $400 million in the more rapid and guaranteed, albeit far from complete (the sum is insufficient), destruction of nuclear weapons, which, although they have become former Soviet weapons, have not become former weapons. The U.S. Congress set aside appropriations last November. The Bush administration took up the idea, and Mr. Bartholomew was entrusted with fleshing it out, which is what he did by coming to Moscow 15 January, then visiting Kiev and Minsk, and leaving Alma-Ata for Brussels 22 January in order to brief the NATO allies on his trip on the way home.

The Russian Foreign Ministry is now awaiting the information promised by Bartholomew on his talks in the three other CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] capitals. Communications with them in Moscow are not as good as over the usual line with Washington. However, experts from the diplomatic departments of all (or almost all) the Commonwealth states are meeting in Moscow on Monday, 27 January. They will define and share out the obligations inherited under the USSR's treaties. Of course, the subject of the $400 million will feature among others. It has to be thought that, following the under secretary of state's trip, the process of implementation will move quickly in Washington, taking the form of a specific plan for direct financial assistance in eliminating nuclear charges.

Time is pressing. The removal of charges for tactical nuclear weapons from Ukraine and Belarus to prepared installations in Russia is to be completed by 1 July this year. There they will be prepared for destruction in accordance with the pledges given by Mikhail Gorbachev, who responded last October to Bush's initiative in the same sphere. Assistance is needed in terms of means of transport and the creation of additional storage premises. Nuclear charges for artillery shells, mines, and ground-based tactical missiles will be removed in full by the end of January. Next in line are air defense missiles, "air-to-surface" missiles, and naval missiles.

The Soviet obligations under the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Nuclear Arms are also being fulfilled at a preferential rate. For example, of the 503 ICBM's taken off alert status, 130 have been removed from the silos and 68 eliminated.

Alas, $400 million is not that large an investment. According to one of our expert assessments, Russia has a need for five special warehouses for the safe keeping of fissionable nuclear materials. The approximate cost of each one is $500 million. We are getting to know a new reality: costly disarmament as the final phase of stupendously expensive superarmament.

Russia is the USSR's successor as regards the earlier adopted pledges to reduce arms. Changes of policy are expected here only in the direction of a faster pace and greater volumes. Boris Yeltsin will evidently speak of this on the day of his debut in the UN Security Council—31 January. An earlier occasion cannot be ruled out either—by way of preparing for his visit to London, New York, and Washington.

The disarmament race is no less infectious than the arms race. Particularly when the epoch of global Soviet-U.S. rivalry is so obviously behind us. The U.S. press carries references to a hush-hush report prepared for the commander of the U.S. Strategic Air Forces. Radicalizing the U.S. obligations under the treaty on the reduction of

offensive nuclear arms, the authors propose, instead of the present approximately 11,000 units, just 5,000 plus or minus 20 percent. A special commission formed under the U.S. National Academy of Sciences goes further: 3,000—4,000 strategic warheads, and then 1,000-2,000.

This is not yet official policy but an authoritative sign of the direction in which it will change. Russia will hardly be alone in accelerating the historic race toward nuclear disarmament. If things proceed normally, additions to the $400 million will be needed.

What is needed for normality in our present stormy circumstances is reliable control over nuclear weapons, as well as strict observance of their nonproliferation regime. This key question was also discussed in detail at the meetings in Moscow, where Aleksey Obukhov sat at the head of a group of Russian experts opposite his old partner, Bartholomew.

The West proceeds from the premise that just one nuclear state—Russia—can remain, as previously, on the territory of the disintegrated Union. In the Minsk agreement Ukraine and Belarus confirmed their desire to be nuclear-free states. Ukraine intends to be fully rid of nuclear weapons by the end of 1994. Kazakhstan avoids being definite as to deadlines but is prepared to fulfill its share of the obligations under the treaty on strategic offensive arms—which means eliminating the nuclear weapons on its territory by 1998.

It has been learned that Bartholomew agreed in principle with the procedure proposed by the Russian side for bringing the treaty on strategic offensive arms into force. Russia is ratifying it, while the other three CIS states which have nuclear weapons on their territory approve of the treaty. A juridical nicety—not ratification [ratifikatsiya] but approval [odobreniye]—means that Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus avoid the politically sensitive status of a "quasinuclear state" and ensures that they subscribe to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons as nuclear-free states.

So, a new accommodation is taking place in nuclear questions—with regard to the emergence of the CIS. Looking from Moscow, this is, above all, an accommodation between Russia, which is emerging into the mainstream of international life, and the West, between Russia and the other Commonwealth states. U.S. dollars for our nuclear disarmament are one of the episodes of this process.

Chemical Weapons Elimination Group Formed

LD2801124792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2359 GMT 27 Jan 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] According to some sources, a state committee for elimination of chemical weapons will be created in Russia in early February. According to the sources close to the Russian Foreign Ministry, it will include specialists from the former departments, which were in charge of their development and production. Russia will do the main part of work in the elimination of chemical weapons. However, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan agreed to make some financial contribution for the solution of this problem.

Pentagon Said To Push for End to ABM Treaty

PM2801170792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 92 p 4

[Report by correspondent Vladislav Drobkov: "Farewell to ABM Treaty? Pentagon Advocates Repeal of Soviet-U.S. Treaty Restricting ABM Systems. Administration Ready To Concede"]

[Text] Washington—There are fears that the ABM Treaty concluded by the United States and the USSR in 1972 may not see its 20th anniversary. THE WASHINGTON POST reported Sunday, 26 January, that the administration intends either to review the provisions of the agreement—which has restrained any race in ABM weapons between the two superpowers for two decades—or to abandon it altogether. Any obstacles to or limitations on the development [razrabotka] and deployment of "star wars" weaponry would thereby be scrapped.

The collapse of the USSR may be a formal excuse to abandon the ABM Treaty. However, the real idea behind this step is to give the Pentagon a free hand to expedite its SDI initiative. As soon as President Reagan proclaimed his intention in 1983 to implement SDI—better known as the "star wars" program—the U.S. military department made no secret of its desire to abandon the ABM Treaty, or at least erode some of its provisions. But the treaty had too many supporters in Congress. After all, it is no secret that for many years the ABM Treaty was the foundation of strategic stability.

Incidentally, U.S. researchers and the military industry have recently had considerable success in developing [sozdaniye] SDI systems. And last year Congress passed a resolution on deploying an ABM network—admittedly limited for the time being—by 1996. In its budget for the current fiscal year the Pentagon has been allocated record appropriations of around $4.15 billion for the "star wars" program. This is over a billion more than last year. The Pentagon is counting on getting more than $5 billion for SDI in fiscal 1993.

Naturally, given such a scale, the framework of the ABM Treaty is getting increasingly cramped and irritating. And it is not important that the potential adversary against whom it was initially planned to develop [sozdavat] a shield impenetrable by missiles from space no longer threatens the United States. As its basic argument in favor of expediting SDI the military department cites fears that in the future missile technologies, along with the ability to produce nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological warheads, may proliferate around the world. As

Pentagon chief Richard Cheney recently announced, ballistic missiles may be in service with a couple of dozen states by the year 2000. "We need the ability to protect the country, our forces, and our overseas allies from ballistic missile attack," he stated.

So the expediting of the "star wars" program is settled. In the very near future, General C. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has stated, "you will see that the President will resolutely defend the continued development [razrabotka] of strategic defense."

'Nuclear Briefcase' Designer Interviewed

PM2801131192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 92 p 2

[Interview with "Yuriy Nikolayev," chief designer of the nuclear briefcase, by O. Volkov and V. Umnov, place and date not given; under the rubric "We Never Knew Them Personally": "Briefcase Is Tired. 'Nuclear Button' Designer Visits Editorial Office for First Time. This Means Something"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The chief designer of the first version of the "briefcase" came to tell the truth. Naturally, he revealed no state secrets. Regrettably, we cannot even give his name—those are the laws of state and personal security. He called himself Yuriy Nikolayev—this was not just the secret designer's pseudonym, but the collective name of those who designed and built the "briefcase."

Why Do Important People Talk Utter Nonsense?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] On Saturday 25 January, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reprinted a unique photograph: Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his personal officer-operative was examining the open "nuclear briefcase." We cannot understand how this photo ended up in the West German magazine BUNTE—after all, outsiders, including photographers, were simply barred from attending this highly confidential discussion. But that is another matter...

The briefcase in the photograph looks suspiciously like your briefcase....

[Yuriy Nikolayev] It is from the same batch. Take a look if you are interested.

(We had a look. It was a black Samsonite attache case around 10 cm thick, instead of the 20 cm case identified in the caption to the photograph. It had a die-cast frame of white metal. There was a combination lock under the handle. Basically it was a very impressive but nonetheless ordinary briefcase with papers and gloves inside).

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Why was this case—a very elegant one—used for our "nuclear button"?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] The leading designer and I chose it. We looked through catalogs of Western consumer goods. What attracted us about this case was its die-cast frame of extremely light aluminum-magnesium alloy.

Incidentally, everyone was interested in the external appearance of the "button," and that is probably why we have been shown all kinds of "briefcases" recently! For instance, the British television series "The Second Russian Revolution" showed a big teacher's briefcase, claiming that this was the sinister "button." Lies!

On the other hand, the elegant black case shown on the 25 December evening edition of the Russian "Vesti" was the real one.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] So could you tell our readers how to distinguish the truth about the "nuclear briefcase" from exaggerations, say?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Or simply from the ignorance of those who pontificate about us! Many very important and not so important people are in a hurry to demonstrate their knowledge and, as a rule, talk utter nonsense. This confuses not only readers but the writers themselves.

The "black briefcase" is just a very small part of a ramified and powerful system designed to bring the strategic nuclear forces into action in the event of a surprise nuclear attack. I will not describe the entire system, which is based on well-known scientific and technical principles—that would be boring anyway. There is nothing in particular to hide. The second issue of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN last year—a magazine that is fairly often available at our newspaper stands—very accurately describes the configuration, principles, and military-technical capabilities of both our system and the U.S. system.

Can the President Walk in the Aleksandrovskiy Garden?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Was the first "briefcase" much different from the current version?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] At first we ruined a number of "briefcases." Then we simply used a homemade, yellowish molding which did not open like ordinary cases, was 50 percent thicker and about twice as heavy as the current case...

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Incidentally, the Germans have stated that the "briefcase" weighs 1,300 grams. Is it that light?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] No, it is a bit heavier. Around 10 kg.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Who was the ultimate inspector of the "article"?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] At that time everything was decided by Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, the defense minister.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Was it at his initiative that the "briefcase" was developed?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Life itself raised this problem in the late seventies. Nuclear weapons had been developed and a command and control system for them had appeared. But they could only be controlled operationally and

reliably at top level if the commander in chief was present at the relevant command post. But what if there were only minutes left to make a decision?

Just imagine if the president were walking in the Aleksandrovskiy Garden when suddenly an attack was reported....

So there was a natural desire to complete the nuclear pyramid and close the nuclear chain.

We Must Not Fight With This "Briefcase"!

[Yuriy Nikolayev continues] Remember, after the putsch someone said in an interview that you could hammer in nails with this "briefcase." The fact is that we really must not use it in a fight.

This system has been developed solely for an accidental nuclear war, when there is a complete surprise attack on the country—as big a surprise as a bolt from the blue. In such an event the relevant missile attack radio warning systems would report it.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] To the "briefcase"?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] It is a complicated transmission system, but ultimately everything ends up there.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Does this mean that no president, no Yanayev, or any other operator can switch the "briefcase" to attack mode?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Yes, because the "briefcase" is on line [vedomyy]. It is always working and always in contact, but can only be put into combat mode if it gets accurate information about an attack.

If people are thinking about starting a war, the "briefcase" will be useless. What smart Alec would go for a walk in the Aleksandrovskiy Garden if he knew he was planning to fight a war? He would first get deep underground in a command post and hide his family there....

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Do the Americans have a similar "briefcase"?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] I do not know. We tried to find out professionally—through the GRU. But we could not get any sense out of them. At any rate, I do not know.

It is not a question of the "briefcase." It is a question of the command and control system. I know one thing: The U.S. version is also designed solely for an accidental war.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Do only we and the United States have these systems?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] I hope that every nuclear power has national systems.

What Can Be Done in Seven Minutes?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Who is entitled to use the "briefcase"?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Here in the former USSR it is the president, defense minister, and chief of the general staff.

In the United States the "briefcase" is in the hands of the President, and then there is another long list of people who can take over in an emergency.

We probably have a similar list too. Admittedly, quite recently Marshal Shaposhnikov made it clear that "nuclear briefcases" are held only by the Russian president and the commander in chief of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces. The third is currently in reserve.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] There has been a lot of talk about whether the leaders of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus currently have their fingers on the "button."

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Radio "Ekho Moskvy" has already fantasized about the possible transfer of the reserve "button" to Kazakhstan. It is not just the "nuclear briefcase" that can be transferred wherever you like, although this would be very expensive and take a certain amount of time. Are the sovereign presidents of the new nuclear powers prepared to wait? Are they able to pay?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] In order to use the "briefcases" do all three owners have to press their buttons simultaneously?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Technically, no.

There was a time when launch vehicles were in direct proximity to our borders, and flight time was around seven minutes. What can be done in those seven minutes? It takes minutes for radars to locate and identify the missiles.

Imagine that two [briefcases] were on line [na svyazi] at that time while the third was not, anything might happen...

Nobody is allowed to know how the owners of the "briefcases" decide things among themselves.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Is one person in a position to do this?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] I would reiterate that technical provision has been made for this. Otherwise, how reliable would things be?!

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] So why then do we have three "briefcases"?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] What do you mean?! What if something happened to one of them....

The Russian president or commander in chief of the CIS forces need have no doubt about the utter reliability of the information they receive and pass on via the "briefcase."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What if the man with his finger on the "button" fell ill or was near death in the hospital? Would he have the "briefcase" under his bed?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] That is why there are three. Ultimately anyone could find themselves in a situation where contact is lost.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What if the president unexpectedly traveled to the ends of the earth—the South Pole, for instance...

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Well, first, his itinerary would be known beforehand. If he were planning to go anywhere, it is well known that a "Ruslan" would fly there a week before departure, carrying...primarily communications equipment. Reliable, top-secret equipment.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are the three "briefcases" absolutely identical?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Technically, yes. But each one carries the mark of its "owner."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Could the "button" work spontaneously?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Believe me: The "briefcase" may not be able to hammer in nails, but you could press ordinary buttons with it.

Do Presidents Have Special Training Exercises

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are there any guarantees that the "briefcase" will not be used by the wrong people?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Such guarantees are built into the design.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Brezhnev, for instance, was hardly in a position to make such decisions in his final years.

[Yuriy Nikolayev] This system started being developed under Brezhnev, but he never lived to see it [no on yeye tak i ne zastal].

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But was he aware of it?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Judging from what Ustinov said, he was. There were many conversations along the lines of "We will show the general secretary soon..."

The first general secretary was Andropov. But he was already in hospital at the time. I cannot say anything at all about Chernenko.

But Gorbachev was very well aware of what the "briefcase" was. Although he did not know the technical details—he is not a technical man, after all.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are there any special exercises for the president where he is taught how to handle the "nuclear button"?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Everything about it is so simple...You will realize that this kind of system has to be simple. Simple to use. When this decision is being made there is terrific stress involved! The man involved is under pressure. There may be just seconds left.

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Finally, it all began under Brezhnev, so the operation had to be elementary. This simplicity has been maintained.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Before the "nuclear button" passed to Yeltsin following Gorbachev's resignation, both presidents had reminded us several times that "I still have the briefcase" (Gorbachev) or "I will be taking over the briefcase" (Yeltsin). Why such jealousy about this object?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Let me try to give you my version. The devices ultimately used in these systems for heads of state may differ—briefcases, attache cases, "hot lines," consoles, or notebooks with code words and numbers. Generals usually try to pull the wool over their presidents' eyes a bit but, irrespective of the real military importance of these devices, they are becoming the symbols of supreme power—something akin to the orb and scepter of the tsars.

Imagine Bush or Yeltsin without these symbols. Their image as leaders of great powers immediately lose their grandeur. At the same time millions of people throughout the world are seized with alarm at the thought that tens of thousands of nuclear charges have no one to control or supervise them.

I, for example, well recall the prompt and rigorous top-level investigations that took place during the trial run of the system if, for instance, communication with the "button" was lost for just a few seconds. This, clearly, is the key to understanding the acute anxiety that arose during the attempted coup d'etat in August.

Leaving aside the conspirators' possible desire to humiliate the president by depriving him of such a symbol of power, you have to recognize the glaring incompetence of both the organizers of this action and those simply charged with carrying it out. Well, if the intention was to cut the president off from the outside world, why was it necessary to take his "nuclear briefcase" from him and assume responsibility for that crime as well? After all, you cannot contact the outside world via this "button"!

What Is Demanded of Members of the President's Family?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Who is more important—the operator or the president.

[Yuriy Nikolayev] The president. The operators—perhaps they will hold this against me but let us speak honestly, I know them well—the operators they are just porters. The operator knows perfectly well how the "briefcase" works. If the president has forgotten something, in seconds the operator can prompt, describe, and explain in simple terms...

When we began playing at this "war" we discussed the "Shurika" problem a lot—"Shurika" is the name that we gave to the person who was to carry the briefcase. We were told at top level: "You realize that he has to be virtually a member of the family?" Such were the demands that were made.

Admittedly, our fears proved groundless. They are not members of the family. But we really thought— under the bedroom door. Nevertheless the operators remained at some distance.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Who are these people, how do they live? Ideally, they should be shielded as much as possible from contact with others: Any contact at all...

[Yuriy Nikolayev] No, they live in ordinary apartments. No one guards them.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What is their rank?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Not lower than lieutenant colonel.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Must an officer sleep at the president's dacha?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] What do you mean sleep there? He does not sleep there, he works there. There was a whole company of them in Foros, too.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Does the operator travel in the president's car?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] No, in a different car, specially equipped.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Does this mean that if there is just one car traveling, no matter what flags are on it, the president is not in it?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Anyone who knows him...that is why he is president, because he can say: Sit here, I will be back in half an hour.

Incidentally, those at the top came and went but the senior official who directs this group did not change.

You Need Protection!

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What did you do until the late seventies?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] I worked in the space industry, space communications..

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] When did they ask you to take up your new job?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] The institute received some new work and I was instructed to do it. If the chiefs had known how this would end, they would not have allowed such "small fry"—the deputy chief of a scientific research department—to become involved.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Did your pay rise sharply straight away?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Yes, thank God—I used to get 270 rubles [R]. In December last year it rose to R570. Just the other day they promised R1,700.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Do you have all the information about how the "nuclear briefcase" works inside your head?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Yes, I know everything.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] So, you need a bodyguard!

[Yuriy Nikolayev] That is what the investigator into the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency told us, we have several experts among us: "You know things like this!! And you do not have a bodyguard?!"

No, we do not.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What is your military rank?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Reserve senior lieutenant. I am a civilian.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Were many people involved in creating the "briefcase"?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] I will give you a roundabout answer. They awarded one Hero of Socialist Labor medal, one Lenin prize, and two State prizes for this system in 1985.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Were the awards concealed?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Of course. The diploma states: "For the creation of an automatic control system." That is all.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Were you happy with your work?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Definitely, and we are not ashamed of it now, either.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] How many people in the country today know this system really well?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] In industry—about 15.

Do Not Play At "Briefcases"!

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] When Gorbachev was president was the work financed in full?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] It is not a matter of the president as an individual. Designer's supervision [avtorskiy nadzor] was entrusted to those industrial ministries which installed and debugged this equipment. The ministries paid for this work from their own state budget resources. Or, as they now call it, from covert military spending.

Now there are no ministries and there is no finance. Goodness knows to whom we belong. Our only finance is

what we receive under contract. There is no contract for the upkeep of service personnel now.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What is your forecast: Could it be that soon we will not need a "nuclear briefcase" at all?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Nuclear weapons and the means of controling them are the legacy of the former Union. I do not think that Russia's nuclear umbrella will disappear overnight even if, to the rest of the world's amazement, Russia wanted that. Recent press reports on the fate of the former Ministry of Medium Machine Building give no grounds for thinking that the production of nuclear weapons will be halted completely.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But hold on, the country has disintegrated, should some things in the "briefcase" not be changed, too?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Not in the "briefcase" as such, but in the system. After all, it was imposed on the missile early warning systems. They, logically, should be stationed on our borders.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] How much can the present three briefcases do without being repaired?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Do you think that there are really only three then?!

Who Said That There Are Only Three "Briefcases"?

Of course, there is more than "briefcase" assigned to each person. Gorbachev did not have just one ZIL car or just one plane with the presidential seal on it.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Does that mean that there are, for example, another 10 "briefcases" lying in an armored safe somewhere?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Not in an armored safe...somewhere the military keep reserve "briefcases" which could be used as replacements at any time.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are they ready to work?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Some things need to be added to them, that is, preparations need to be completed.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Has the "briefcase" ever broken down?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Why else would I say that we needed briefcase repairmen? Of course it has broken down. Components that were brought in did not work. The "briefcase" itself could break down from daily use.

So a few "operational briefcases" are quite enough.

Is This A Shock for the Whole World?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Strictly speaking, are your present-day problems directly proportional to our mismanagement?...

[Yuriy Nikolayev] If that were not so I would not be here with you today.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What is the most dangerous thing? Is it that the technology is getting old?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Proliferation [razdolbaystvo] is beginning to flourish with the possible result that nuclear weapons control could become slack. That is the main thing. In the past my job was very simple: I picked up the receiver and rang an official at the military-industrial commission.

Understand me—everything comes and goes and this system is getting old. Furthermore, every technical facility has its own life span. Its operational life will end and a decision will have to be made—to repeat the design, including experience gained from using it, the change in the organization of the state, the disappearance of the Union, and much else besides and perhaps produce something new? After all, we are dealing with nuclear weapons here and they must be kept constantly under supervision. Not just military supervision—it needs top-level control.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Does your group constantly monitor the work of the system?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] Of course, we have designer's supervision. No matter how much a thing is cleaned up and tested, during the operation of any system—be it a nuclear power station or an ocean liner—occasionally there occur so-called unscheduled [neshtatnyy] situations which the operation service does not understand. Weaknesses are shown up by operation. One more point: It is trivial, nonsense, but you can imagine that a new boss arrives and finds something he dislikes.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The design of the handle?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] The "briefcase" has an inconspicuous distinguishing mark—a strip of chrome-covered plastic with a serial number engraved on it for ease of operation: No. 51, 52, 53.

One of the new "bosses" saw this and took offense: "I am not number 51, I am No. 1. Change it."

All the locations, as we call them, must be specially equipped, too.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are there many?

[Yuriy Nikolayev] They exist wherever there is a "boss." Usually two offices, a dacha, an apartment, a dacha in the south...for some reason new subscribers prefer not to use their predecessor's dacha.

Ogarkov was chief of the General Staff. He was replaced by Akhromeyev—and he had a dacha somewhere else. A newspaper, by the way, last year revealed the name of the

system itself. The newspaper studied the Defense Ministry budget and found that a communications center for the "Kazbek" system had been set up at the chief of the General Staff's dacha....

Akhromeyev was replaced by Moiseyev and Moiseyev by Lobov. They had only just had time to equip his dacha when suddenly he was replaced. In came Samsonov who, as you know, was not given a "briefcase."

But these are just trivialities. The engineers—specialists in the "nuclear briefcase"—who were not exactly overpaid in the past found themselves in a state of real poverty—their pay is around R500. The boys began to beat it pretty fast. It is good that there is somewhere for such professionals to go.

Do they want to know about this situation in the president's apparatus or in the government? Using the traditional methods of getting through to them there—writing letters or going directly through the military—is virtually impossible now.

Indeed, tomorrow an operator-officer will go to Yeltsin and say: "Your 'briefcase' has broken, Mr. President, there is no one to repair it. I am going home."

That will be a shock for the whole world!

Former Republics' Admission to CSCE Debated

No Decision Yet

LD2801132792 Moscow TASS in English 1159 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vitaliy Yaroshevlki]

[Text] Prague January 28 TASS— Senior officials of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe met in Prague on Monday [27 January] to discuss the former Soviet republics' membership in CSCE. However, the discussion lasted till late in the evening with no definite decision found.

A number of delegations emphasised that such CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member states as the Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan and Armenia can not become full-fledged members of the European process.

Head of the Russian delegation Yuriy Deryabin told TASS the attitude to sovereign countries, which expressed their desire to enter CSCE, should not depend on national categories.

According to Wilhelm Henk, chairman of the senior officials' committee, Bosnia-Hercegovina have followed Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia in applying for membership.

The committee will give recommendations to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Helsinki process member-states. The final decision will be made early on January 30, ahead of Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel's opening address to enable new CSCE members to participate in the foreign ministerial meeting.

Ten Republics Recommended

LD2901115192 Moscow TASS in English 0824 GMT 29 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vitaliy Yaroshevskiy]

[Text] Prague January 29 TASS—The committee of senior officials of the Security Council of European Countries (SCEC) [as received] at its session here unilaterally decided late on Tuesday [28 January] to recommend to the Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers (CFAM) to admit ten republics of the former Soviet Union as its full-fledged members, now members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Thus on January 30, the opening day of the meeting of the heads of the foreign departments of European countries, the USA and Canada, 38 member states of the SCEC will be joined by Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. It should be remembered that Russia automatically became a member of the SCEC, being the successor state of the former USSR, but Georgia is still holding back its request for admission into European structures for security and cooperation.

All ten independent states ahead of time expressed their wish to join the all European process as its full-fledged participants, the head of the Russian delegation Yuriy Deryabin told TASS. Even on the eve of the session of the committee of senior officials, representatives of some European countries were sceptical about the idea of involving Central Asian republics, Armenia and Azerbaijan into the process of cooperation and security in Europe. "In this case Russia's stand is quite clear. The very fact that the members of the CIS have declared their willingness to fulfill pledges of the Helsinki conference, may serve as a basis for admitting them into the SCEC. All participants of the Prague session came to the conclusion—it has more plusses than minuses. Now the Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers has to take the final decision," he emphasised.

In all probability, Slovenia and Croatia will receive the status of observers, which was not objected by the the Yugoslavian delegation.

Minister Estimates 500 Scientists Have Left

LD2801131792 Moscow TASS in English 1137 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Prokhorov]

[Text] Tokyo January 28 TASS—About 500 scientists from the former USSR Academy of Sciences have left the Soviet Union in the past three years to seek jobs in the West. Only 100 intend to return home after their contract terms expire, the Russian Minister of Science, Higher School and Technical Policy, Boris Saltykov, said in an interview with the Japanese newspaper ASAHI.

The minister said the Russian Government, dogged by economic difficulties at home, has been unable to do much to detain scientific job-seekers at home—allocations for the development of Russian science have been shrinking chronically. Researchers who earlier worked in the defence sphere have found themselves unwanted in the wake of the conversion drive and the fall of demand for new weapons and military equipment.

According to Saltykov, money to pay for research and upkeep of researchers can be generated by exports of domestic weapons in demand on the world market.

Division of Armed Forces, Paris Treaty Viewed

LD2701102992

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1200 GMT on 25 January broadcasts in its "The Armed Forces and Society" program a three-minute recorded interview with Reserve Captain First Rank Oleg Mikhaylovich Lisov, a military expert and a senior scientific staff member of the Russian-American University, by Igor Makarov, about the implications of the division of the USSR's armed forces for the terms of

the Paris Treaty on the reduction of conventional armaments in Europe by the NATO member states and the Warsaw Pact member countries.

Lisov reiterates the main terms of the treaty, noting that such weapons as tanks, armored carriers, artillery, combat aircraft, strike helicopters, and mechanized bridges are to be reduced to certain levels by 1994.

Makarov then asks Lisov to be specific about the distribution of such weapons among the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

"[Makarov] For instance, how many will Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, or Ukraine be allowed to have?

"[Lisov] It is for the governments of the states you named to reply to this question.

"[Makarov] But will the weapons and equipment of the new units, such as the so called national guards, be included in these parameters?

"[Lisov] Without fail. The above-mentioned levels may not be exceeded under any pretext whatsoever by introducing any units. The figures stipulated in the treaties must be strictly complied with.

"[Makarov] In your view, what will make it possible to solve this very difficult problem which has arisen?

"[Lisov] In my view, all sovereign states of the former Soviet Union need to start talks on the allocation of their commitments under the treaty which was signed and to start destroying immediately very large quantities of military equipment and armaments. The leaders of the recently formed sovereign states need to confirm now their obligations under the above-mentioned treaty."

WGF Chief, Mecklenburg Premier on Withdrawal

PM2701120192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Jan 92 p 3

[Report by Colonel V. Markushin: "Alfred Gomolka Promises to Aid the Western Group of Forces [WGF]"]

[Text] How to step up the sale of the Western Group of Forces' [WGF] property, cooperate more efficiently in eliminating ecological damage, and organize the retraining of our servicemen from the resources allocated—these and certain other questions were the object of a lively discussion at a meeting between A. Gomolka, prime minister of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania Land, and Colonel General M. Burlakov, commander of the Western Group of Forces. The meeting took place in Neustrelitz, the city through which the main flow of shipments carried by sea from the Western Group of Forces passes.

Col. Gen. M. Burlakov cited graphic figures: We are leaving behind 1,280 housing blocks containing 18,000 apartments, together with many hundreds of other facilities—barracks, schools, stores, and clubs—all built using our funds. In other words, just what is most badly needed by the troops being withdrawn. Last year more than 15,000 servicemen and their families left Germany, having no apartments to go to.

At the same time, the pace of the construction of housing for them in no way corresponds to the pace of the withdrawal of troops, the commander stressed. Moreover, even the housing which will eventually be built will not be enough for everyone. Additional funds are needed. They might have been generated by the sale of camps left behind by the servicemen, their total value being set at 2 billion Marks. But so far not a pfennig has been received.

One of the reasons for this situation, M. Burlakov said, is the artificial restraints placed on the sale by the FRG Ministry of Finances. This department is not facilitating the regular dissemination of information about already finished facilities, and is not permitting interested persons and organizations to acquire them—expecting that it will be possible to pick up all this for a song at a later date.

I would like to secure the appropriate support of the Land government in solving this vitally important question, the commander said. A. Gomolka, who is at the same time chairman of the Bundesrat, assured those present that he will provide such support.

Republics Trail Russia in Repaying Debts

PM2901091592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 92 First Edition p 3

[Article by Yuriy Kashin under the "Analysis" rubric: "At the Moment We Are Paying Off Other People's Debts"]

[Excerpts] The World Bank has circulated a report on the foreign debts of developed and developing countries, including the former Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

The bank's experts have assessed the former Soviet Union's debt at the end of 1991 as between $57 and $71 billion. According to their predictions, the situation will gradually improve in this respect. "The Soviet Union, which is currently experiencing a shortage of cash in hard currency," the document points out, "will find itself in a better situation by 1993 and will be in a position to honor its financial commitments."

Germany accounts for the largest proportion of the West's loans and credits to the former Union—around $22 billion. Of this sum, practically half is guaranteed by the FRG Government. France, Japan, Italy, and Britain are among the former USSR's other major creditors. By the end of last year, the former USSR was to have paid out $23-26 billion on its loans and credits.

We are satisfied with the way talks are proceeding regarding current payments in 1992 and we have already received permission from our creditors to defer payment of $11 billion, Petr Aven, chairman of the Russian

Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, stated recently. The management of "Deutsche Bank," the largest private bank in the FRG, believes that the agreement reached in Paris between a number of Western countries to allow eight CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] republics, including Russia, to defer payment of the foreign debt, may be insufficient. It is not out of the question that the Western states will have to hold another meeting of this kind this year. Whether this is done or not depends on how cooperation between the eight republics—who have assumed the commitment to pay off the former Soviet empire's foreign debt—functions in the financial sphere.

However, the main problem is that so far there has been no sufficiently well-tuned mechanism for the transfer of the republics' payments into a common fund for servicing the foreign debt. Today practically none of the republics is making payments into the account for paying off the foreign debt according to their respective quotas.

No one has stated that they will refuse to pay the debts. Everyone is promising to pay but whether they do so remains to be seen in the near future. The republics are alluding to the fact that enterprises engaged in export deliveries and having currency accounts at the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity [Vneshekonombank] are paying money on an independent basis into the account for paying off the debt. But as there is a huge number of currency accounts, Vneshekonombank is hardly in a position to monitor the republics' payments into the account for paying off the foreign debt. The republics themselves, apart from Russia, do not have a strict system for monitoring deductions into the common fund either.

In answer to a question about whose debts specifically Russia is paying off now, Petr Aven said that "it is difficult to give a straightforward answer to this question." Russia is now accounting for 80-85 percent of all the payments whereas its quota is 60 percent.

Argentina Willing To Take 100,000 Settlers

PM2801094692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[RIA report: "Argentina Is Prepared To Accept Emigres From the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]"]

[Text] Buenos Aires—Guido di Tella, Argentine minister of foreign affairs and culture, has confirmed that his country is willing to accept 100,000 immigrants from the republics of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States].

Argentina has asked the European Community to grant it $2 billion dollars to resettle and provide for the immigrants. This question will be examined and finally resolved in May this year in Lisbon at a conference on aid to the former USSR that is being convened under EC auspices.

Overview of Egyptian Visits, Agreements

PM2901103392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 92 p 4

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Belyakov: "Ties Established"]

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan—An Egyptian Government delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister K. al-Janzuri has returned home from a trip through the Commonwealth of Independent States. The delegation visited Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, and the Ukraine. The purpose of the visit was to establish ties with the new sovereign states, particularly in the trade and economy sphere. The head of the delegation conveyed a message from President H. Mubarak to the presidents of the five republics containing, among other things, an invitation to visit Egypt.

As K. al-Janzuri stated on arrival in Cairo, agreements about exchanging diplomatic representatives at ambassador level have been signed with Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. Understandings have been reached with all the republics about developing trade. To this end it is planned to establish joint banks in Russia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine. There are plans to establish direct air communication between Cairo, Tashkent, and Kiev.

International Affairs

Yeltsin, Black Sea Fleet Officers Confer

LD2801192192 Moscow TASS in English 1857 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Novorossysk January 28 TASS—"The Black Sea Fleet is a fleet of the Commonwealth. It does not protect a specific republic, but the whole Commonwealth of Independent States," Rear Admiral Vladimir Solovyev told TASS, commenting on the main idea of today's meeting of Russian President Yeltsin with navy men of the Black Sea Fleet.

This afternoon, Yeltsin visited the Black Sea flagship—the anti-submarine cruiser Moscow. A meeting held there involved many officers of the Black Sea Fleet, Commander in chief of the Commonwealth Armed Forces Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, Commander of the Commonwealth Navy Vladimir Chernavin, Black Sea Fleet Commander Igor Kasatonov and head of the Krasnodar territory administration Vasiliy Dyakonov.

No correspondents were admitted to the meeting.

"During the meeting we solved tactical issues and talked about our life and difficulties," said Rear Admiral Solovyev. "We understood the president will not allow inter-ethnic strife, and the fleet should conduct its own business."

Commenting on the meeting's results, Black Sea Fleet Commander Igor Kasatonov noted the meeting was organized because of Yeltsin's desire to "specify his tasks and stands" before leaving for New York to address the UN Security Council.

"During the brief and fruitful conversation, we managed to discuss and find acceptable solutions to many problems," he stressed.

"The president made sure once again our stand remains unchanged—the Black Sea Fleet is indivisible. Its fate was determined 300 years ago, and no aspirations of a side matter."

Speaking of reasons for holding the meeting in Novorossysk, Admiral Kasatonov said the fleet had naval exercises in the area. Fleet representatives arrived in Novorossysk at the invitation of Krasnodar territory administration head Vasily Dyakonov.

The sudden decision of Yeltsin to meet officers of the Black Sea Fleet, which crucially changed his schedule in the past two days, provoked diverse remarks in the media because of the recent fierce debates between Russia and Ukraine over the fate of the Black Sea Fleet.

Yeltsin, Baker Discuss Agenda for U.S. Trip

LD2901094992 Moscow TASS in English 0909 GMT 29 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Vasiliy Titov and Sergey Petukhov]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—Talks between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker have just begun in the Kremlin's St. Catherine Hall, in Moscow.

Welcoming the U.S. secretary of state, Boris Yeltsin praised James Baker for showing political farsightedness and taking the courage to receive him when he was not a Russian president.

Yeltsin also said he was satisfied with U.S. President George Bush's latest arms proposals.

The two will discuss bilateral relations, preparations for Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States and the agenda of Yeltsin's talks with Bush.

Later in the day, Baker is expected to give a news conference on the results of his meeting with Yeltsin.

Kozyrev Previews Yeltsin Speech to UN

LD2801211292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1906 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Mirror" program, first paragraph is announcer's introduction—recorded]

[Text] The creation of a new, positive image of the USSR as far as the international community is concerned and the transition from the "cold war" toward cooperation among states—these are, undoubtedly, real achievements of Soviet diplomacy over the years of perestroyka. Gorbachev's peace initiatives have gained respect from all the peoples of the planet. An independent Russia is now making its appearance in the international arena. Our correspondent has asked Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev about the forthcoming speech the president of Russia is going to make at the UN Security Council which, for the first time, will convene at such a high level—the level of heads of states and governments.

[Correspondent] As foreign minister, what are you preparing for President Yeltsin, for his speech there? Will the Russian portfolio contain anything new?

[Kozyrev] Yes, there will be new things, but, first and foremost, one would like to emphasize that it is, indeed, the first time in history. There was much talk about it before, but it was never implemented. I think that this is recognition of the positive changes underway in the world and, last but not least, there is this rather sensitive matter which, all in all, is not being concealed all that much and that is that it was conceived for the purpose of

giving a democratic Russia a global tribune to reaffirm not only that complete continuity has been ensured of all the positive things done in the area of foreign policy by the Soviet Union over the past few years to overcome the "cold war", but also to emphasize that what is expected of the new Russia is to go over to friendly, genuinely normal, partner-like relations, above all with the leading world powers.

Well, as for our portfolio, I think there will be this atmosphere that yes, there remains in the world—there is this completely erroneous idea among us, a panic-ridden idea that lo, we have ceased to be a great power. We remain a great power, we will be a great power, even, I would say, a superpower, because there also exist at least 10 great states in the world that are not permanent members of the Security Council, so we shall have retained this status. But another thing is important and, I think, it is this that will distinguish the current meeting: It is not the same superpower that used to frighten itself, frighten the whole world, and, as it were, evoked fear more than anything else and it is from this that the greatness stemmed, but it is a power that now gives the world the hope that democratic transformations, market economy will become a reality and thus this global threat that used to emanate, all in all, from the Soviet Union, even until the last days of its existence, will be removed. So, this newness will be found in the very essence of the approach.

Shakhray Postpones Baltic Withdrawal Talks

LD2901121492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Sergey Shakhray and the Russian delegation he will lead in negotiating the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from the Baltic states will not arrive in Vilnius tomorrow. The Russian representatives were to visit Estonia before arriving in Vilnius. A report from Moscow says that these meetings have been postponed. It looks as if the tactics of promises and procrastination used in solving this pressing issue do not change in Moscow.

IZVESTIYA Reviews Clash at Cuban Embassy

PM2901104192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Yevgeniy Bay report: "Scuffle Outside Cuban Embassy. Havana Authorities Transfer Their Methods of Combating Dissidents to Our Country's Territory"]

[Text] While Cuban dissidents are blockaded in their own homes in Havana, surrounded by security forces and indignant fellow citizens, opponents of the Castro regime abroad decided to hold a protest action in Moscow.

To condemn the wave of repressions in Cuba it was planned to hold a demonstration outside the entrance to the Cuban Embassy at 40 Mosfilmovskaya Street at noon on Saturday, 25 January. Foreign journalists of both print and film media, who had come to a prior agreement with their editorial offices and studios, were expecting a sensation.

And it happened, albeit of a somewhat different kind. When the correspondents arrived at the Cuban Embassy's gate toward midday, they found already there a dense crowd of rally participants holding...portraits of Fidel and Raul Castro. Amplified by powerful loudspeakers, a song glorifying the country's ruling duo was flooding out over the people's heads.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent has learned that the embassy, having prior knowledge of the protest action that was being prepared, took its own measures. The previous day a delegation had gone round the hostels and private apartments of hundreds of Cubans, employees of various Havana organizations and missions in Moscow, as well as students. In a tone that did not allow for objections they were all instructed to meet at the embassy by 0900 on Saturday for a ceremonial act devoted to the start of Jose Marti week (28 January was the birthday of Cuba's national hero). The participants were promised rum, music, and "cultural entertainment."

Toward midday opponents of the regime also began to converge on the embassy building. Not noticing the posters, one of them took his fellow citizens gathered outside the gate as being on his side. However, he quickly realized his mistake when several people at once seized him by the collar: "Why aren't you shouting: 'Long live Fidel'? Shout it at once!"

This at once went round the crowd: "Look, the gusanos are coming" ("gusanos" means "worms," which is what the regime's opponents who have left the island are called in Cuba). The "gusanos" included a university student, to whom the Cuban authorities had stopped paying a grant one month ago for refusing to surrender her passport to the embassy. Several of the defenders of socialist principles tried to dump her into the snow, but a militia detail turned up in time to help the student. A couple of other critics of the Cuban president (she a Soviet citizen, he a Cuban working at the correspondents' center of the Spanish newspaper ABC) also got it. They had come to the demonstration with a poster reading "Castro is Stalin with a beard."

The poster was torn up, and the head of the family received several heavy blows to the jaw before a line of militiamen formed up between the rival groups. This happened just in time, for otherwise the scuffle might have escalated into a real bloody battle. Diplomats and other mission staffers were continuing to egg on their fighters from the embassy grounds. "Give them a proper thrashing, do not stand on ceremony!" could be heard from behind the railings. One embassy staffer, who hitherto had been filming everything that was happening with a video camera, also ran up to one of the groups of brawling people who had broken through the cordon. He

was on the point of bringing down his foot on a dissident who had been laid low, but he thought better of it just in time.

Meanwhile, opponents of the regime were continuing to converge on the scene of the skirmish, and there were already several dozen of them by 1300. In the end, a war of slogans began between the two groups, separated by a chain of people in uniform: "Scum and worms, remember Playa Giron!" people shouted from the embassy walls. "Down with the fascist dictatorship!" came the response from the opposite chorus, not so strong yet quite sure of itself.

I noticed that both groups of rally participants included our own citizens. The political watershed was also marked by the attitude toward Fidel. This struck me personally as an alarming symptom. If such a thing is happening in Moscow, then what intensity a civil conflict in Cuba itself might attain. But thousands of our people are continuing to work there, you know, including an infantry brigade which has still not been withdrawn from the island.

Delegation in Israel Agrees on Joint Projects

OW2901024592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian and Israeli business partners plan to undertake three big collaboration projects, including the construction of grain storage facilities in Moscow region and Krasnodar territory, a joint production in Russia of a unique ultratomograph and the development of Il-62, a passenger airliner. An agreement on all of this has been reached in the course of a Monday [28 January] visit to Israel by a delegation of the Russian union of industrialists and entrepreneurs led by its president Arkadiy Volskiy. He said that the Israeli banking structures and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development expressed interest in financing of these three projects.

Labor Minister Confers With German Minister

PM2801160592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 92 p 5

[Report by correspondent Yevgeniy Grigoryev: "Workers from Russia, Help from Germany"]

[Text] Bonn—From now on, Russian workers will be able to have two or three years' practical work experience in Germany. At present this arrangement applies to 11,000 people who will come here under agreements between enterprises in the two countries. In addition, another 2,000 young workers from Russia will be given an opportunity to improve their professional skill and their knowledge of the German language by working for 18 months in industry in the FRG.

This is perhaps the most interesting result of the talks held here with Federal Labor Minister N. Bluem by A. Shokhin, deputy chairman of the government and minister of labor and employment of the Russian Federation.

The ministers also agreed that the Russian side will study German experience in the spheres of unemployment insurance and job placement. With this aim it is planned to open a labor exchange in Moscow along the lines of those operating in the FRG, an arrangement which will include staff training and experience sharing.

The main theme of the conversations in Bonn was the question of humanitarian aid, a considerable part of which is coming from Germany. The government and public here are highly concerned about how this aid will reach specific addressees. In this connection the Russian side has proposed discussing a draft declaration on humanitarian aid which, as A. Shokhin noted at a news conference, would also enshrine Russia's commitments in ensuring that its aims are achieved. Foreign Minister Genscher stated that the Federal Government for its part will do everything possible to ensure that food aid from the EC and Germany reaches the major Russian centers as quickly as possible.

Cooperation Plans With Germany Outlined

PM2901095492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 92 First Edition p 7

[Vladimir Arkadyev article: "Results of Visit to Germany"]

[Text] The Russian-FRG permanent consultative council on economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation will begin work in the near future. This decision was made by the Russian Federation Government. By all appearances, the signing of a treaty on cooperation between our countries is not far off.

The main sphere of cooperation is, of course, the economy. It is proposed to establish contacts with the Mercedes Benz AG concern and the Daimler Benz company. Financial, banking, and insurance structures will be set up to provide backing for our countries' cooperation programs. Next in line is the modernization of facilities in the fuel and energy complex and machine building. The Germans will also help us to organize the production of small-scale agricultural equipment.

We have much in common. The Germans were the first to try to integrate the GDR's economy, worn down by socialism, into their own healthy, competitive economy. It is therefore extremely important for us to study the experience of privatizing enterprises in the former GDR and see the successes and failures in its transition to a market economy and ways of resolving the problems of employment. The House of the Russian Economy in Duesseldorf and its German counterpart in Moscow could play a positive role here; the Russian-German permanent consultative council is to work on the project to set them up.

Nor can we ignore questions whose resolution also has a marked influence on the development of relations between the Russian Federation and the FRG. One of these is the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Germany. This operation will be carried out in the light of the fact that suitable housing conditions have to be created for our servicemen returning home. The Germans are prepared to help us build housing.

Another urgent problem is the implementation of the RSFSR Law "On the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples" with respect to persons of German nationality living on Russian territory. It is expected that a Russian presidential decree will be issued on this question and an appropriate agreement concluded with Germany.

One last piece of news. It is planned to open a Russian consulate general in Stuttgart, Baden-Wuertemberg.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Conference Continues; 'Panel Groups' Meet

LD2901055992 Moscow TASS in English 0535 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—Conditions for the establishment of peace in the Middle East cannot be shaped without reliance on international law, without the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories or without recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. This idea was propounded by chief delegates during the first day of proceedings at the Moscow meeting to organise multilateral talks on the Middle East.

The meeting, which opened here on January 28, is being attended by delegations from 26 countries, including representatives of China, Japan and the European Community.

The delegations of Syria and Lebanon are absent from the meeting, thereby protesting at Israel's refusal to withdraw its troops from the territories of these countries.

Before the very opening of the meeting, representatives of the Palestinians announced their boycott of the meeting. They insist that Palestinians who live in East Jerusalem and in the diaspora be included in a Palestinian delegation.

At the same time, judging by pronouncements by Palestinian delegation members, the delegation has not finally declined to participate in the two-day Moscow meeting and is trying to find an acceptable formula for that.

Israel is known to have stated that it would participate in the Middle East peace talks, which had been launched in Madrid last autumn, if a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would include only Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza sector.

According to Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, the co-chairmen agree that it would become possible to introduce adjustments to the Madrid formula on Palestinian representatives' participation when various negotiating groups begin to discuss individual problems common to the region.

The minister made this statement in comment on remarks by many speakers who pointed out the need for representatives of the Palestinian people to take part in the talks.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, for his part, agreed with this remark, emphasising that the co-chairmen will not object to including Palestinians in the conference's panel groups dealing with the problem of refugees and economic development.

Mr. Baker also emphasised that the Moscow meeting was an important landmark on the way to settling the Middle East conflict.

Many participants in the Moscow meeting have shown a desire to conduct constructive talks and made specific proposals to resolve the existing problems, he said.

However, David Levi, Israeli deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, stated that Israel was committed to the Madrid formula for the Palestinians' participation in the Moscow meeting and would not allow any deviation from it.

At the same time, speaking at a news conference, Levi emphasised that the first day of the meeting went off smoothly. He voiced hope that successes in a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem would be achieved this year.

The foreign ministers of Jordan and Canada expressed regret that the Palestinian people was not represented at the meeting.

According to Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, there can be no genuine peace in the region without a solution to the Palestinian issue and that the conference would not be able to achieve reasonable solutions to its problems.

Speaking at the news conference, the Jordanian minister described as "a step backwards" David Levi's statement, from which it follows that the border between Israel and Jordan should run along the River Jordan.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, representative of the Palestinians, told the news conference that the Arabs would make every effort to secure the Palestinians' participation in the talks. "We have arrived at the conference to discuss basic issues, and any decision not based on equality is doomed to failure," she said.

The Moscow meeting will continue its work today, with participants to meet in panels.

'Regional Cooperation' Stressed

LD2801175692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1650 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandras Budrys, Sergey Postanogov, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Jan (TASS)—It is impossible to formulate the conditions for peace in the Middle East without reliance on international law and without the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories and recognition of the just rights of the Palestinian people. This thought was consistently pursued during the evening sitting by the heads of the delegations attending the Moscow meeting, which opened today, to organize multilateral talks on the Middle East.

The delegations of Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain stressed the importance of arranging regional cooperation in the economic, ecological, and health-care fields. The Tunisian representative said that the international community must take an active part in resolving the Middle East problem, as occurred during the resolution of the problems of Afghanistan, Namibia, and Cambodia.

Speakers pointed repeatedly to the need for representatives of the Palestinian people to participate properly in the negotiating process. In this connection, Andrey Kozyrev declared at the end of today's sitting that the cochairmen agreed that it would be possible to make modifications to the current operative Madrid formula when the work of the various negotiating teams on individual pan-regional problems began.

Speaking toward the end of the meeting's first day, Secretary of State James Baker observed that many of those attending had displayed a wish to hold constructive talks and had expressed concrete proposals to resolve the existing problems.

He voiced regret at the fact that the delegations of Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine had not attended the Moscow meeting, and expressed the hope that those countries would contribute in the future to the process of a peaceful settlement of the Midle East conflict. The secretary of state agreed with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's comment on the possibility of including Palestinians in the conference's working groups dealing with the problems of refugees and economic development.

The Moscow meeting will resume tomorrow. Those attending it will meet in working groups.

Kozyrev, Baker Assess First Day of Talks

LD2801170892 Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Alexandras Budris, Sergey Postanogov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 28 (TASS)—The Moscow Middle East conference co-chairmen are unanimous in the opinion that it will be possible to make corrections in the current Madrid formula only after various negotiating groups begin working on specific common regional problems, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said after the completion of the first day of the Moscow Mideast meeting.

In Kozyrev's opinion, delegation heads made valuable remarks on practical organization of the multilateral negotiations. The minister hopes delegates will understand the Russian delegation's satisfaction that representatives of the independent states of Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan take part in the conference.

Kozyrev also said the representatives can make a constructive contribution to the support of the peace process in the Middle East.

The Moscow multilateral meeting is an important landmark on the way towards a solution of the Middle East conflict, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said late on the first day of the conference.

Many participants in the conference proved their desire to hold constructive negotiations and made specific proposals on the solution of the current problems, he added.

Baker lamented over the absence of the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian delegations at the Moscow meeting, and expressed the hope these countries will later make their contribution to the peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Baker agreed with his Russian counterpart that the Moscow meeting co-chairmen will not object if Palestinians insist on their admission to the conference working groups discussing the refugees' problem and economic development.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Interviewed

LD2901005392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Excerpt] A meeting to organize the multilateral negotiations on the Middle East has begun in Moscow today. Our correspondent, Nikolay [name indistinct], reports.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dear listeners, good evening. I greet you in this episode of the program. The foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the honorable Mr. 'Amr Musa, is participating in my interview. Welcome Dr. Musa to the capital of Russia, Moscow.

My first question concerns the conference that will be held in Moscow. We all know that there have been certain difficulties in organizing this meeting. Will this meeting in Moscow be a success or a failure?

[Musa] I hope that the Moscow meeting will be a successful one, especially since it concerns measures, and not negotiations on any subject.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Your Excellency the Minister, there are several issues to be dicussed during this meeting. What, in the opinion of Your Excellency, are the most important issues in this meeting?

[Musa] I believe that the most important issues are agreement, first, on the notion [mafhum] and the basis. The basis and notion of any negotiating operation, including the multilateral, within the framework of this peace process, is the principle of land for peace. This should be fully understood.

Second, the multilateral negotiations are linked to the bilateral negotiations. If no progress is achieved in the bilateral talks, it is not expected that progress will be achieved in the multilateral talks.

Third, all the parties should cooperate on increasing the chances of success. The continuation of the policy of building settlements in the occupied territories, for instance, can have only a negative effect on the chances of success. The expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, that is from their occupied territories, means having a negative effect on the chances of success. The annexation of land and the insistence on the refusal to talk on the basis of land for peace affects the chances of success. What is required is that stances on all these matters should be defined for us to be able to guarantee the success of the peace process, which is in itself difficult because the negotiating operation is difficult. We hope that all the parties, Arabs and Israelis, keep this in mind.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. Your Excellency the venerable foreign minister of Egypt, we know that the previous stage, which was held in Washington, was described as a failure because certain results were not achieved. When does Your Excellency believe the direct meeting between Israel and the Palestinian delegation will take place, in which city and when, and what roughly will be the solution for this coming meeting?

[Musa] We believe that the coming meeting also will be held in Washington and that there is a need for stability, that is for the bilateral talks to settle in one city. What is important is that the success of these talks depends on talking about the issue, the essence of the matter, not on continuing to talk about the number of delegates from the opposite side, who they are, how they sit, what they say, and what the agenda is. There is a need to enter discussions and not waste time. Wasting time is against the peace process, and this is the danger.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Your Excellency, we know that Egypt does not take part in the direct talks between Israel and the Arab delegation. In this matter, how do you see the role of Egypt?

[Musa] We are not a direct side in the bilateral talks because there is no direct problem relating to land or peace between us and Israel. Rather, we are interested in ending Israel's occupation of the occupied territories, so that the whole region may return to a normal situation, a natural situation, a situation in which no one occupies the land of the other, and no one commits aggression against the other. We seek stability in the Middle East region; we seek peace in the Middle East region. Therefore, we observe the bilateral talks very closely, and actively take part in the multilateral talks. Also we are a major party to the peace process.

[Correspondent] Thank you. I have, if you will permit me, a question concerning the role of Russia now. We know that Russia and the United States are the organizers of this meeting. How does Your Excellency see the role of Russia in this whole process, beginning with the meeting to be held tomorrow and until the peaceful solution of the Middle East problem?

[Musa] First, Russia is an important state, and its role is a major one. Therefore, we welcome the Russian role in this process and demand its continuation, that is, we demand this continuation. Therefore, the invitation extended to us by Russia to attend the opening session, or the start of the multilateral negotiations operation in Moscow, was a very good step, and we believe that the more the Russian interest and role grow, the more this will be in the interest of peace process. [Passage omitted] [end recording]

Israel's Levi on PLO Role, Scientists' Future

LD2801192292 Moscow TASS in English 1808 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Alexandras Budris, Sergey Postanogov, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 28 (TASS)—The Moscow meeting that opened today has become an integral part of the Middle East peace process, David Levi, Israeli deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, told a news conference here.

Levi believes that the first day of the meeting went off smoothly. He was gratified to emphasise that most speakers took a constructive stand. He voiced hope that successes in a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem would be achieved this year.

Commenting on the possibility of the Palestinian delegation's participation in the Moscow meeting, Levi said, is committed to the Palestinian participation formula worked out in Madrid and will not allow any changes to be introduced to it. [sentence as received] The Israeli side insists on maintaining the earlier adopted formula subsequently as well.

Levi explained this stand by saying that a changed composition of the Palestinian delegation might involve

representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation which seeks to destroy the state of Israel.

Speaking about the refugee issue, Levi said it is essential to find a solution to the problem. "We are prepared to work out programmes to settle the issue," he emphasised.

The minister voiced concern over the possibility of work by nuclear scientists from the former Soviet Union in a number of Islamic states. He expressed hope that efforts that had been made by Israel together with the United States and other countries would make it possible to prevent that.

Levi believes that genuine talks on a Middle East peace settlement should be held between the parties concerned without interference from the outside.

At the same time he welcomed other countries' contribution to confidence-building. The Israeli minister suggested that subsequently the talks be held in the Middle East.

The leader of the Israeli delegation said he would pay an official visit to Russia soon and that both international issues and matters concerning bilateral relations would be discussed during the visit.

Remarks on Central Asia

OW2801224692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi expressed satisfaction with the course of today's debates at the Moscow Middle East conference. Speaking at a news conference in Moscow, he said that Israel would not permit any departure from the Madrid agreements which name the members of the Palestinian delegation. Israel believes that the only form of Palestinian participation in the negotiations is within a joint Jordan-Palestinian delegation.

Israel, Russia and the USA are all against participation in the talks by the so-called Palestinian diaspora. Their participation will always be out of the question, said Levi. He emphasized that the Palestine Liberation Organization was not a partner in this process and that it was not aimed at the creation of a Palestinian state.

Levi said that Israel was closely watching the developments in the former Soviet Union and was concerned over the possibility that the former Soviet Central Asian republics may join the Islamic world, which may jeopardize peace in the region, said Levi.

Jordanian Minister: Levi Remarks 'Regrettable'

LD2801193292 Moscow TASS in English 1914 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Alexandras Budris, Sergey Postanogov, Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 28 (TASS)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir on Tuesday [28 January] described the statement by David Levi, head of Israeli delegation to the Moscow peace conference on Middle East, to the effect that the border between Israel and Jordan lies along the River Jordan, as "a step backwards".

"We came here to try and reach peace but not to draw new borders", Kamil Abu-Jabir told a news conference. The Israeli minister's statement is "regrettable".

According to Kamil Abu-Jabir, the participation of a Palestinian diaspora delegation in Middle East talks was discussed during the talks on Tuesday and it was decided it can join the process at a later stage. At the same time he did not rule out the possibility Israel would veto the decision.

Kamil Abu-Jabir said withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Palestinian territories and Palestinian self-determination are the preconditions for economic cooperation with Israel. He also pointed out a working group on Palestine refugees "may be created".

Meets With Kozyrev

LD2901100592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0912 GMT 29 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov, Igor Peskov, and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Jan (TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a meeting today with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, who is taking part in the current meeting in Moscow which is preparing for multilateral talks on the Near East.

Answering journalists' questions at the end of their conversation, both ministers spoke in positive terms about the progress of the Moscow meeting. Andrey Kozyrev expressed the hope that those who have not taken part in the first part of the meeting will join in.

The Jordanian minister told journalists that his conversation with the Russian foreign minister had covered bilateral relations, particularly the question of students from Jordan who are studying in Russia, and also the state of economic relations. He spoke positively of Russia's role in the organization and holding of the Moscow meeting on the Near East.

Tunisian, Turkish Representatives Speak

LD2801160492 Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandras Budris, Sergey Postanogov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS— It is impossible to create conditions for the achievement of peace in the Middle East without the use of the international law, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of just rights of the Palestinian people, stressed Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

He was supported by the Kuwaiti representative. Delegations from Oman, Qatar and Bahrain stressed the importance of the establishment of regional cooperation in the economy, ecology and health care.

The Tunisian representative said the international community should take active participation in the solution of the Middle Eastern problem, same as it was during the solution of the Afghan, Namibian and Cambodian problems.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin voiced an opinion, deficit of trust could be overcome through the development of economic cooperation, disarmament and consolidation of security in the region.

The Ukrainian delegation is for the first time ever present at a forum on the Mideast as an independent participant. The delegation head noted his country values peace in the Mediterranean region same as peace in the area of the Black Sea and the whole Europe.

Japan Confirms 'Active Part' in Mideast Peace

LD2801201792 Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksey Luzin]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—Japan, which is for the first time participating in a meeting within the framework of the Middle East peace conference, will continue to take an active part in the peace process in that region, Seiji Morimoto, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Foreign Press Relations Department, told a briefing here today.

Commenting on the results on the meeting here between Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal al-Sa'ud, Morinoto said the two ministers touched upon matters concerning a peaceful settlement of the Middle East peace problem and bilateral relations. An understanding was reached that the Japanese foreign minister would visit Riyadh.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Michio Watanabe had left for Tokyo later today and that the Japanese delegation would continue its work at the Moscow meeting.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Decree on Chernobyl Effects in Bryansk

PM2801153592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 92 First Edition p 2

[Decree of the Russian Federation President "On Additional Measures To Eliminate the Chernobyl Disaster's Effects on the Territory of Bryansk Oblast," under the "Official Section" rubric, signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 20 January]

[Text] In order to create conditions for stabilizing the socioeconomic situation in Bryansk Oblast, which was worst affected by the accident at Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station], I resolve:

1. That the Russian Federation Government should:

ensure that in 1992 the state program to eliminate the effects of the accident at Chernobyl AES is funded at the level of amounts stipulated for 1991 (at comparable prices), and make provision for the sources of such funding and for the centralized allocation of material and technical resources and consumer goods starting January 1992;

provide for the targeted allocation to Bryansk Oblast administration of resources for supplying the population in areas affected by the accident at Chernobyl AES, when foreign credits are utilized to purchase food;

provide for an increase in the issuing of quotas and licenses to enterprises and organizations located on the territory of Bryansk Oblast to carry out export-import and barter transactions for output produced on the oblast's territory.

2. That the Bryansk Oblast administration should:

compile and submit to the Russian Federation Government before 1 April 1992 a program for stabilizing the socioeconomic situation in Bryansk Oblast;

compile and approve before 1 May 1992 a program for reconstructing and developing the city of Novozybkov, aimed at its radiative rehabilitation and ensuring safe living conditions for the population.

3. To allow the construction of housing and social amenity facilities and the expansion and reconstruction of existing enterprises and organizations in the city of Novozybkov and other territories of Bryansk Oblast, where the effective equivalent radiation dose does not exceed 0.5 rem per year, with a view to creating the appropriate production base and attracting construction organizations from other regions of the Russian Federation.

4. That the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs should ensure the involvement of UN organizations and other international organizations in compiling, funding, and implementing a special long-term program

for the international community's participation in minimizing the effects of the Chernobyl accident on Russian Federation territory, which includes the construction of a Russian republic radiological treatment and diagnostic center in the city of Bryansk.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] Moscow, The Kremlin, 20 January 1992

Yeltsin Appoints Environment Council Chairman

PM2801162192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 92 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Official Section" rubric: "Council for Ecological Policy"]

[Text] An Environmental Policy Coordinating Council has been created by an ordinance of the Russian Federation president. A.V. Yablokov has been appointed chairman of the council, which comprises the minister of ecology and natural resources, the ministers of health, agriculture, and fuel and energy, the minister of science, higher education, and technical policy, and also the chairmen of Russian Federation state committees.

The main tasks of the Environmental Policy Coordination Council under the president are to work out agreed proposals on the implementation of state ecological policy and to coordinate the activities of ministers, departments, and other administration organs on ecological questions.

The decisions of the Environmental Policy Coordination Council are of a recommendatory nature and are sent to the ministers and departments involved.

Decree Seeks Assistance in Olympic Training

LD2901115892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1036 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 29 Jan (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has advised Russian Federation ministries and departments by decree to render all possible assistance to implement the program for training Russian sportsmen for the Olympic Games. This document does not contain any instructions for direct financing for this training.

The decree allows the Committee for Promoting the Olympic Movement, which is attached to the Russian Federation Government and sports federations, to use all currency proceeds from various foreign economic activities for training for the 1992 Olympic Games despite the country's difficult financial situation. It also envisages various customs privileges when carrying out activities for these purposes.

Yeltsin Meets Medical Workers' Demands

LD2901102792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] An all-Russian strike of medical workers scheduled for today has been suspended. The decision has been taken by the Union of Public Health Workers after the president of Russia issued instructions to meet their grievances. One: As of 1 February, the floor wage of doctors will be 1,150 rubles a month; 35 billion rubles will be spent in the first quarter of the year to advance their Republic's health care. This is as much as was spent for the purpose in the whole of last year. Hard currency is being set aside to buy medicines abroad. Work starts on a five-year program to produce medicines for hospitals and clinics here.

Starovoytova Said Possible Defense Minister

LD2801193092 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 28 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report in "Express News" roundup: "A Woman as Defense Minister?"]

[Text] According to an announcement from circles close to the Russian parliament, it could happen that in the near future the reformed Defense Ministry will be headed by a woman: Russian Federation State Counselor Galina Starovoytova. Our informants believe that her participation in the recent all-Army conference should be viewed in precisely this light. Hopes of implementing the military reform that hitherto has progressed no further than promises now are being pinned on Starovoytova, the "iron lady" of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States].

Yeltsin Adviser Starovoytova Describes Work

LD2801175792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 28 Jan 92 p 5

[Interview with Galina Vasilyevna Starovoytova, adviser to the Russian president on interethnic questions, by Grigoriy Kroshin; place and date not given: "The Time of Closed Politics Is Past"]

[Text] [Kroshin] Galina Vasilyevna, you are often on your travels, not only within the country but abroad as well. That also forms part of your functions as the Russian president's adviser on interethnic relations.

[Starovoytova] Sometimes these are my scientific contacts, sometimes they are my contacts as a deputy. It is all politics too: The time of closed, provincial politics is past.

On the other hand, when we spoke to Boris Nikolayevich prior to my appointment as his adviser, he agreed with my concept: The **unified** political line must imbue Russia's relations with different peoples, both with those within the republics of the former USSR and those in

foreign countries. What is more, some statewide principles must be implemented equally in Russian politics and toward the peoples living in Russia itself. Both these and other relations are in actual fact **interethnic** relations, that is, relations **between peoples**. Moreover, Yeltsin stressed right away that he would be interested not only in relations in Tatarstan and Chechen-Ingushetia, for instance, but also in, say, the ethnic situation in Yugoslavia or in the Canadian Province of Quebec because as head of Russia he may consider it necessary to respond to these situations at some point. At least he must have a good grasp of them. That is how I came to find myself as his adviser for interethnic relations, on a world scale, as it were. That has often been the reason for my trips abroad.

Take the recent conference in London on the subject of "The Future of the Ukraine." Countless representatives of Ukrainian communities in Britain and Canada; representatives of the Ukrainian parliament; Aleksandr Yemets, chairman of the Human Rights Commission; and Deputy Sergey Golovatiy, in particular; and others took part in it. There also were delegates from Britain, Germany, and Poland, the U.S. ambassador to Britain, and NATO representatives, and I think that there were personnel from the CIA and other special services who, naturally, did not advertise their presence.

The point is that events in our part of the globe today worry the entire Western community. Their interest is understandable: The Ukraine is a nuclear power and the Black Sea Fleet is based, as you know, largely in the ports of the Crimea. You would have thought that we Russians could not fail to devote proper attention to these problems, but... I was Russia's sole representative at this forum.

[Kroshin] Why, in fact, was that? Did the White House not know about this?

[Starovoytova] Yes, they did. I personally provided my colleagues with very extensive information about the coming conference and spoke about it to the Russian Foreign Ministry. However, Deputy Minister Shelov-Kovedyayev was attending the U.S. congressional hearings at the time and Minister Kozyrev also was busy. Regrettably we are all too busy.

[Kroshin] You can imagine the interest shown by the Western participants in the conference, particularly in light of recent events.

[Starovoytova] Of course! People in the West are keeping a very close eye on events in our country. Unlike ourselves, they are trying to forecast events here. The creation of a new Ukrainian state in Eastern Europe with a population of many millions—particularly a state equipped with nuclear weapons—is an extremely important factor.

[Kroshin] People now are saying that Russians living in other republics have an extremely disparate attitude toward Russia. For instance, in Latvia I met Russians who whink that Yeltsin has betrayed them... Are you aware of these feelings?

[Starovoytova] Of course I am, but I am totally unable to agree with that opinion. First, we have the relevant points protecting the rights of the national minorities—the Latvians in Russia and the Russians in Latvia—in the treaty that Boris Yeltsin and Anatolijs Gorbunovs signed in the past. Second, additional documents and agreements, as well as the law on Russian citizenship, are being prepared in connection, particularly, with the Army's withdrawal from the Baltic states... We are taking the talks with Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia very seriously.

Do you realize what has happened? Russia was one of the first to recognize the Baltic states' independence. Our compatriots in those republics woke up one unpleasant morning to find themselves emigres, without even leaving home! That comes as a great psychological shock to people. In actual fact, they ended up involuntary victims, hostages of the empire. Regrettably, no empire's collapse is painless for its inhabitants. However, the recriminations currently being leveled at Yeltsin and other Democrats have no foundation. See for yourselves! The president now is receiving thousands and thousands of letters and cables from various hot spots, including South Ossetia, for instance. We are being asked for help, for instance, by 67 schoolchildren in Tskhinvali: Their school is constantly being bombarded, and before the winter their families had no food stocks or fuel. What would you do in that situation? After all, on the one hand, Georgia today is a republic that has declared itself independent; on the other, Russia has voluntarily renounced the "big brother" role, and consequently cannot use strong-arm pressure to settle the question of defending national minorities outside Russian territory. Am I right?

At the same time, however, we cannot ignore the tears, the cries for help, and the sufferings of children and adults who have found themselves "abroad." So I wonder: Is it not time for us to abandon the principle of "not interferin" ' in other states' "internal affairs"? God forbid! I do not mean that Russia should interfere in Georgia's or Latvia's affairs. I am referring to a general international principle: Human rights are not a state's internal affair. It was this principle that was enshrined in the final documents of the fall 1991 human rights conference in Moscow within the framework of the Helsinki Congress. We all remember the whole world raising its voice in defense of Academician Sakharov during his exile in Gorkiy, thus interfering in the USSR's "internal affairs," for which we are very grateful to the whole world.

[Kroshin] How do you propose that the West should interfere in our interrepublic conflicts to ensure that this is effective?

[Starovoytova] Perhaps it is time to expand the rights, powers, and numerical strength of the UN peace-keeping troops, the "Blue Berets." Perhaps we should create similar "Blue Berets" in what was the Soviet Union (purely UN troops or joint troops with ours) to be stationed solely on the line of demarcation between the conflicting parties. Of course, they must be professionals working on contract. Naturally subunits of this kind must comprise representatives of all republics, that is, they should be truly international and brought into a particular conflict zone—Karabakh or Ossetia—solely by a collective decision in which every state, regardless of the size of its population, would have a single vote. While this does not exist in our country, we can only feel for the children of Ossetia...

[Kroshin] Galina Vasilyevna, how can you account for the fact that Russia is the only one of the former Union's republics not to have declared independence as yet?

[Starovoytova] We have always espoused the view that Russia will be the last to take that step. That is how it has turned out. Regrettably, over the last few years Russia has lost many of the acquisitions our forebears gained for us. The geographical idea has always been the most important organizing idea behind Russian ethnic self-awareness. Unlike the historical idea characteristic of other peoples. For instance, the Armenians, Jews, Ukrainians...

[Kroshin] However, does not the well-known agreement concluded last December in the Beloezhskaya Forest, initially by the three republics, indicate the opposite?

[Starovoytova] I do not think that there are any contradictions here. Of course, on the one hand Russia concluded an alliance with Belarus and the Ukraine on an historical basis, but on the other, there is mental commonality here, as well as ethnic and ethnocultural commonality, and—this is the main thing—you also have Russia's voluntary renunciation of its role as the "older brother" and its renunciation of its imperial and chauvinistic ambitions, which represents an extremely important factor.

[Kroshin] As adviser for interethnic problems do you have any concept for a Russian national policy?

[Starovoytova] Of course I do. Quite recently I held a conference on the subject of "Russia's National-Strategic Interests," which was devoted entirely to formulating a concept. Russia is, you know, both an ancient and a very young state. It has never in its recent or very recent history existed without being an empire. And it still has to fulfill its **self** [samost] if you like, its own interests, its own ethnic identity. However, Russian self-awareness is going through the same crisis today as German self-awareness, for instance, because in both countries the main symbols of ethnic identity were destroyed, lost, or desecrated by a period of totalitarianism. In Germany, the Nazis used all national folk songs. Today these songs evoke in people totally different associations from those they should evoke, and Germans are forced to reject most of them. The Germans today feel lost in a uniting Europe despite their ethnic and political successes, particularly with regard to the unification of the two Germanies. The ethnic identity of the Germans—particularly East and West Germans together—is a great problem.

[Starovoytova] I think the Russians' ethnic identity also constitutes a great problem that we still have to resolve. I would very much like the Russian people to consolidate themselves around the ideas of democracy rather than around the senseless emotions of red-eyed, brown-shirted patriots.

[Kroshin] On the one hand, you are continuing your energetic activity within the democratic movement, and on the other, you are a fairly prominent figure within the president's team. Do you not feel somewhat split in two as a result of this position?

[Starovoytova] I find it easy to combine these two things. In principle, the slogan put forward at one time by Aleksandr Herzen with regard to Czar Aleksandr II should, I think, always be topical for anyone who considers themselves to be a democrat: "We back a reformer as long as he takes the path of reform."

Yeltsin Adviser Bogomolov Interviewed

PY2701201592 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jan 92 p 25

[Interview with Boris Bogomolov, one of Boris Yeltsin's advisers, by Fatima Cristina; place and date not given]

[Text] [Cristina] Russia is unfreezing prices. Confusion and protest were the first reactions to a free market economy because the country is facing a lack of supply. Were you expecting this type of reaction?

[Bogomolov] Of course we were expecting reactions, but I believe that the government underestimated the social and psychological consequences of the unfreezing of prices. For example, look what happened in countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia. Following the unfreezing of prices in Poland there was a considerable drop in production, unemployment increased, and the authorities were not very successful at controlling inflation. The standard of living fell significantly and inflation continues. There is food and the Polish Government is trying to solve these problems. We are experiencing a different situation, because Russia and the other states are facing a problem of supply following the unfreezing of prices. The prices of some products have increased 25 times, while salaries have been readjusted by just two to six times. The standard of living abruptly fell. I believe there will be more protests and strikes, but what I fear most is that the people will feel that they have been robbed by the government as soon as their economies become unmanageable. If they feel that they have been robbed, they will begin to rob the government.

[Cristina] How can you prevent this?

[Bogomolov] We have to compensate the people. We can do this because our state is very rich. This is why privatizations will have an important role in Russia's introduction to a market economy. We are going to offer, free, properties that belong to the state. The people are very depressed and desperate because many of them do not know how they will survive. This will pass. We want to start with the privatization of land, state properties, natural resources, and state companies. The first step is evaluate our assets. At least 40 percent of all state properties will be transferred and will be distributed among the people. If we do this the people will feel better because they will own something. At this time we do not expect to obtain much from privatizations because there is no ready money, but money will be essential for continuing our economic reforms.

[Cristina] How long do you believe it will take for the first signs of stability to appear in Russia?

[Bogomolov] We must wait for a turning point before we will begin to grow again. At the present time we are going downhill, but later we will slowly begin to forge ahead. It could take a year or more. At the present time we are facing a drop in production and a threat of hyperinflation because we unfroze prices and salaries together. In a situation like that, prices always take the lead.

[Cristina] What role will foreign capital play in privatization and in the whole Russian economy?

[Bogomolov] Foreign investors are very reluctant to invest in our territory at this time because of the lack of political and economic stability. We will, of course, permit the participation of foreign capital, but, as happens in other countries, with certain limitations. Investors will not be interested until the situation is normalized, but within the near future foreign capital will be able to participate in our economy. We now need the support of the international financial organizations to help us to stabilize our accounts and loans and to regularize the supply of basic products. We do not expect to receive very much, some $10 to $15 billion this year from developed countries in the form of loans or donations.

[Cristina] Russia, like the Ukraine and Azerbaijan, has asked to join the IMF and the World Bank. What kind of relations do you expect to have with these organizations?

[Bogomolov] I have been told that Russia and those two other countries will be accepted as members of the IMF. There are positive and negative aspects when one becomes a member of the IMF because the organization imposes conditions that, at times, are not appropriate for the member countries. Of course, our resources will increase by becoming a member but at the same time the imposition of certain measures will not be very satisfactory. The recommendations of the IMF are standardized while the economies of each country are specific and I am not sure that these recommendations would help our economy.

[Cristina] Russia tends to be the strongest country of the Community of Independent States (CIS). What will be Russia's position within the new world scenario?

[Bogomolov] Russia can handle reform much more successfully because of its infrastructure. It is better prepared in terms of the economy and human resources. Within the world scenario, I believe that once those reforms are implemented, Russia could strongly influence international relations. But this will depend on the course of our economy, on demilitarization, etc. I can only speculate. We can observe that the military confrontation that existed between the West and the former Soviet Union is coming to an end. The threat of a nuclear war is disappearing.

[Cristina] Do you believe that the dissolution of the Soviet Union provoked an identity crisis among the Soviets? Do you fear that there could be a wave of exacerbated nationalism among Russians?

[Bogomolov] Yes, it is clear that we were accustomed to living in a multinational state. We now need a long and painful process of adjustment, but it is necessary. It was a shock for a lot of us. We need to adapt ourselves to the new reality. Radical nationalism is a threat, and what is happening in Georgia is an example. It is impossible, however, to prevent it by force.

[Cristina] Why didn't communism work out?

[Bogomolov] I believe that communism is a mistaken ideological concept. We committed several errors and this is why we are taking the path of a market economy. I do not believe that capitalism is the best political-economic system, but we do not know of a better one. We have to use capitalism and try and improve it. We have inherited many socialist ideals which can be incorporated in the creation of a better economic system.

Justice Minister Outlines New Penal Code

LD2801183592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1714 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By KRIM-PRESS correspondent Yuriy Soltys]

[Text] Moscow, 28 January (TASS)—Not a single "political" article of the RSFSR's present penal code will be preserved. This was stated today at a news conference by Russian Federation Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov. According to him, the draft of the new penal code, signed by Boris Yeltsin, will be discussed and passed by parliament at its first reading in the spring.

In the document submitted to the Supreme Soviet, the priority of protection of personal rights has been envisaged for the first time. The interests of the owner have been recognized as paramount. The article penalizing private entrepreneurial activity and a number of economic "crimes" has been abolished, and other changes have been introduced.

Thus, the authors of the document have abandoned the institution of criminal proceedings against a criminal's nearest relatives for failure to report a crime. The list of crimes punishable by death has been considerably narrowed. While the old penal code contained 27 articles on the basis of which capital punishment could be applied, in the new one only three of these have been retained and they do not extend to women and minors. The maximum period of deprivation of liberty will most probably be 15 years, as before.

At the same time, however, in connection with the switch to the market economy, new articles have been included in the draft which envisage criminal liability, for instance for setting up phony businesses [lzheprednprinimatelstvo], false bankruptcy, and artifically hiking prices.

As has become known to the KRIM-PRESS correspondent, one more "scandalous" article—on homosexuality—has been changed in the document submitted. Now it will be phrased approximately as follows: "For forcibly inclining people toward homosexuality and lesbianism."

Foreign Ministry Appointments Reported

PM2901121592 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS FAX DIGEST in English 28 Jan 92 pp 1-2

[Unidentified correspondent report: "New Appointments in Russian Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] Work soon will be officially completed on the personnel reshuffle and the revision of the list of staff in Russia's Foreign Ministry. So far, new Minister A. Kozyrev, moving from Staraya Ploshchad to Smolenskaya Square, also took with him his three former deputies. The First Deputy Minister Shelov-Kovedyayev (a historian by training and a people's deputy of the Russian Federation) is in charge of Russia's relations with other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), disarmament, security and cooperation in Europe. Boris Kolokolov (diplomat who worked at the Russian Foreign Ministry before Kozyrev joined it) supervises European desks and the Middle East. Georgiy Kunadze, expert on Japan, former head of department at the Institute of World Economics and International Relations, deals with the Far East and with Personnel. Kozyrev has invited Georgiy Mamedov from the former USSR Foreign Ministry for the post of his deputy. He used to be head to the US and Canada department. Now, he supervises relations with the countries of the American continent.

According to information available to MN [MOSCOW NEWS] Anatoliy Adamishin will be appointed First Deputy Minister. At one time he was deputy to Shevardnadze, then Ambassador to Italy. Back from Washington, former USSR Ambassador to the USA Viktor Komplektov will probably be appointed Deputy Minister. At the same time, a number of Eduard Shevadnadze's deputies, for example, Igor Rogachev (who supervised Asian affairs), have been appointed ambassadors at large. A department on the relations between the CIS countries is planned, but its head is not yet known. It is also believed that Vladimir Petrovskiy, former First Deputy Foreign Minister, will shortly be posted to UN headquarters in New York.

Gaydar on Defense Conversion Effect on Salaries

LD2801181792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] While parliamentaries postponed the issue of the state budget for the first quarter and discussed more delicate problems such as Crimea's transfer to the Ukraine in 1954 and the current situation of the Black Sea Fleet, our special correspondent Nikolay Artemyev asked Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar how employees of defense enterprises will be paid under conditions of conversion. Here is the point of view of the deputy prime minister of the Russian Government.

[Begin Gaydar recording] Means for paying salaries at enterprises of the defense complex have been envisaged to a tune of 10,000 million rubles [R] as allocations for conversion and R3,000 million as allocations for a conversion fund which is to be created by dint of three percent of the cost of defense enterprises.

These means should be used in two main areas. These include, first of all, social support. For instance, if an enterprise cannot submit an efficient conversion project for which it is asking money, there is no point in simply paying salaries. They should be paid in a sensible way and for that reason their production facilities should be re-tooled. Then we will pay salaries. If the enterprise can submit such a project—we have a lot of demands and proposals to provide money not simply for salaries but for conversion projects—then we will provide money for conversion projects.

Regarding budgetary debt, of the budget for these organizatons, it has been stipulated in our defense budget to a tune of R3,600 million, if I remember correctly. In addition, target credits provided by banks are envisaged—you understand that this should be included into state debt—target credits provided by banks for these purposes and for financing the most interesting conversion measures. [end recording]

Further Gaydar Remarks

LD2801182692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] With the development of the conversion process there are layoffs at defense enterprises and resources, which are allocated by the budget, are sometimes not enough to pay workers salaries—corresponding to our price level—and for social measures. Here is the point of view of Yegor Gaydar, deputy premier of the Russian Government.

[Begin Gaydar recording] This is a serious problem. We have especially analyzed the situation in closed towns. We have envisaged raw resources for social support to those who are employed in these towns. In our opinion, here there are serious short-term problems and long-term prospects. Since these are the regions with a developed social and industrial infrastructure, these are the towns with most professional and most disciplined labor force. Speaking of technical potential and the potential shoots of industrial policy which can be conducted here, providing macroeconomic chaos is liquidated, in my view, these are potentially the most attractive sites for foreign investments in the Russian processing industry. [end recording]

Group, Fleet Transferred to Jurisdiction

OW2801181692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On January 27, President Yeltsin of Russia signed a decree "On the transfer of the North-Western military group and the Baltic Fleet under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and subordination thereof to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]."

The North-Western military group and the Baltic Fleet are to be financed from the Russian budget. State delegations of the Russian Federation have been instructed to immediately start negotiations with delegations of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia Colonel-General Valeriy Moiseyev has been appointed Russia's chief official responsible for the Armed Forces and Naval units temporarily stationed in the Baltic.

Sharp Cuts in Military Budget Planned

PM2801142392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Report by A. Sidorov]

[Text] [Sidorov] According to Western news agency reports, Russia is planning to sharply reduce its military budget. Expenditure for the purchase of arms and military hardware is primarily to be cut back. This year it is planned to cut back purchases by 11.7 billion rubles. Substantial savings may result from the sales of equipment and material resources either not yet installed at defense industry enterprises or no longer needed there.

Russia's contribution to the defense budget of the Commonwealth of Independent States will total 61.2 percent this year, compared with the Ukraine's 17 percent, and Azerbaijan's 1.9 percent. The states will have to find additional funds to maintain their own armies. In social terms the reduction of the defense budget may result in the loss of 1 million jobs, which will exacerbate tensions within society.

Putchists Linked to ANT 'Tank Scandal'

924C0380A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 4

[Article by Sergey Panasenko: "ANT [Automation, Science, and Technology]: A Case That Could Be Closed, but is Worth Taking to its Logical Conclusion"]

[Text] "Now I can tell who was behind it. The main guy was Baklanov. Also Pugo. I have no proof—there might not be any. But I know that they even made a decision to physically get rid of me..."

These words belong to Vladimir Ryashentsev, former head of the famed ANT [Automation, Science, and Technology] that gained notoriety two years ago when it attempted to sell abroad either tanks disguised as tractors or tractors disguised as tanks. A powerful propaganda wave raised at that time by Anatoliy Sobchak and Ivan Polozkov led to the suspension of ANT activities, with the all- Union procuracy starting an investigation that dragged on until its own demise.

Anatoliy Sobchak could not stand then Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov, and was happy to pounce on any opportunity to throw a stone at him. However, he quickly understood that he had ended up in the very questionable company of orthodox communists. From then on he made no more mention of ANT publicly, while the story of a cooperative intending to trade in armored equipment became a new point of contention between democrats and conservatives.

At that time, the beginning of 1990, two points of view emerged in respect to the "tank scandal" and ANT itself. According to one, an outrageous sellout of the motherland by mafiosi structures was taking place. According to the other, ANT was the harbinger of the new economy, an example of the superiority of private initiative and entrepreneurship over stagnant socialism.

These days the latter point of view seems to have won, pushing the former into opposition. A short course in ANT history now looks this way. Once upon a time, there was a cooperative. It worked well. Then it accidentally caught the attention of the powers that be. It was appreciated, and raised to the level of the Central Committee and the KGB. Smart people there figured out that such structures were the future, and gave it a "green light." Naturally, this did not sit well with the keepers of ideological purity. They set a trap and crushed ANT. That is all.

Such a legend was perhaps perfectly suited to the purposes of the political struggle of the 1990 season. However, there are many things that do not fit into this Christmas scheme, neither then nor now.

Vladimir Ryashentsev—former officer of the KGB's Ninth Main Directorate, discharged, he says, for health reasons—accidentally catches again the attention of the Central Committee and the KGB? For the sole reason that his cooperative was doing well? The only people

who can believe this are those who do not know that the "office" never loses sight of its former employees, especially graduates of the KGB Higher School, and always gladly calls on them for assistance.

Was it precisely this cooperative that Yegor Ligachev accidentally noticed at an exhibition? Just like that: He was just walking by—and suddenly: "Are these guys representing the kind of cooperative that Lenin dreamed about?" I cannot believe it, because I know how carefully such "accidental happenings" were prepared.

Most of all, I do not believe the fairy tale about the clandestine opponents of the planned economy in the CPSU Central Committee, who conceived a plan to finish off the bankrupt ideology with ANT hands. There were no such conspirators at Staraya Square. And even if we allow their existence for a moment, the experimentation with ANT most likely would have proved that they were not too bright. An experiment on one individual cooperative, wrapped in all kinds of resolutions and classified instructions, could not be compared in any way with the desperate struggle for survival led at that time by thousands of cooperatives in the real conditions of developed socialism.

There is no question: ANT's swift rise and its close connections with the Central Committee, the KGB, and later the Council of Ministers circles proves that they needed it very much. The question is—for what purpose?

Both Staraya Square and Lubyanka had more than enough pragmatic specialist-practitioners, for whom ideological blinders did not prevent their seeing that from 1988 the power of the CPSU was slowly but surely waning, and that it was necessary to prepare "emergency landing strips"—the commercial structures that were starting to sprout in the stillness of the ideological bastions. The main and unassailable proof of this are probably in the KGB and Central Committee archives. Quite possibly the investigators have some, too. But there is a multitude of indirect evidence, first and foremost among them the August resolutions that created for ANT a most favorable status of previously unheard-of magnitude.

That ANT sometimes had hard times does not disprove this point. By then, the resolutions issued by high-level bosses had already started to lose their magical quality. The "command economy"—this is what we call this process now—was collapsing. Nevertheless, ANT was succeeding in pulling the most attractive pieces out of the rubble.

ANT was taken care of the way one only takes care of one's favorite child, on whom all one's secret dreams and hopes are pinned. That is why I believe that the version about ANT being an experimental base for developing some sort of universal approach to the cooperative movement is primitive and does not hold water. Of all things, universality was the last thing to look for there: How many Ministries of Aviation Industry, for instance, are there in our country enabling the creation of state-cooperative concerns with their participation? Suddenly the whole hypothesis blows up in smoke...

Everything was going seemingly well until the unfortunate tanks.

Was the incident involving an echelon of the dozen "item 172" a planned provocation, a mishap, or a real attempt to sell the West a dozen tanks? One was expected to answer this question quickly, like in the Army. "No tanks; a KGB provocation"—and you are a democrat. "Cooperators-smugglers were caught red-handed"—you are a supporter of the socialist choice.

It seemed that many things pointed to a provocation. Vladimir Dovgan, former director-general of the scientific-industrial association Vzlet, which acted as a middleman in the ANT negotiations with the Urals Railway Car Plant, was expelled from the party and fired from his job in the course of the investigation. All the while, Vladimir Seryakov, the director of the Urals Railway Car Plant who actually sold the tanks, got off with a "strict reprimand" but retained both his job and his deputy pin. Now he is carefully avoiding all contact with the press—perhaps out of concern that he may say something he is not supposed to in regard to such benevolence?

ANT people themselves insist on the "provocational" nature of the incident; among such people is Valeriy Skrypnikov, representative of ANT's YuKKA [expansion unknown] branch in Krasnodar Kray. According to him, the fact that nobody had alerted him to the shipment destined for Novorossiysk is first-hand proof of the machinations.

However, the mere fact that the tank echelon stood peacefully for either two or three days at the spur track of the Port of Novorossiysk causes one to doubt the presence of a plot. Add to this the fact that the echelon did not have a military guard (you can be sure that the state security would have taken care of that!), and the scheme falls apart.

If it were a provocation, would Seryakov have charged double price for his product? Would he have demanded 100 percent prepayment in an amount of no more and no less 4.5 million rubles? All of this looks much more like our homegrown Soviet way of doing business that an intricate web spun by the KGB.

Vladimir Dovgan offered me a very Soviet interpretation of this absurdity. One cannot rule out that Seryakov never intended to send tanks to Novorossiysk. But it was the end of the year, the coffers were empty, and the deficit was allegedly close to that same 5 million. So Seryakov devised a scheme. After formulating the calculations for the desired amount and receiving the money from Ryashentsev, in order to be able to use the money to pay year-end bonuses he delivered the finished product on paper and moved the tanks out of the gate, intending to bring them back soon for the "planned

finishing-up." But something went wrong, the railway agency moved too fast—and the train rolled in the direction of Novorossiysk.

This version leaves unclear, however, why during the week it took the train to get to its destination Seryakov or his people did not warn Ryashentsev or at least Skrypnikov of the "runaway" cargo. So the simple way out of all this logical maze is to accept it as given that ANT knew very well what cargo it was expecting from Nizhnyy Tagil and why, and that the fatal misunderstanding involved only the timing of the shipment.

Aleksandr Sterligov, the creator of the Sixth Sector of the USSR Council of Ministers, which later—together with the KGB Sixth Directorate—kept an eye on the Ryashentsev team, told me this literally: "If he had indeed managed to sell these tanks abroad—so what?"

And I agree with him wholeheartedly: So what?

Considering the hard pressure on the part of state organs with which ANT had to contend, most of the profit on the deal would have ended up in the state coffers anyway. The tanks were destined to be exported to India anyway, so our defense would not have suffered. So what would be the problem?

Well, there would have been a certain problem.

Remember who Ryashentsev named among the chief orchestrators of the ANT debacle. Baklanov and Pugo. The heroes of the August coup. Why did these two end up among its leaders? With Pugo it is more or less understandable. But Baklanov, a pure "defense industry man"—what was he doing there?

I would dare advance one guess. Discounting Starodubtsev—who, judging by all the signs, ended up on the State Committee for the State of Emergency out of his own stupidity—the rest of its members were... failures. Failures in the sense that they had not been able—or had not had time—to prepare "emergency landing strips" for themselves, and thus were people without a future. This is exactly what pushed them into the August demarche.

Why the putsch failed is a separate question; there is no sense discussing it here. I think, though, that I would not be veering too much from the truth if I assume that at the end of 1989, in addition to all intrigues and squabbles in the CPSU Central Committee, one more fault line appeared there—between those who had something to fall back on and those who were deprived of such an opportunity. And the latter had all the reasons to hate the former.

ANT was not some minuscule joint enterprise that is easy to conceal. The people of the Pugo and Baklanov clan had enough reasons to wish Ryshentsev had broken his neck. So when the vigilant Polozkov "sent a signal" upstairs about the suspicious echelon belonging to ANT, they immediately grasped what a wonderful chance fate had handed them. And gave the "full steam ahead" order.

They could not allow ANT to enter the world weapons market, but not because of some considerations of state interests—they had stopped caring about the state long before. ANT was not their structure, and this fundamentally changed the disposition. Had Ryshentsev been Baklanov's or Pugo's vassal, Polozkov would have been told to shut up. But Ryashentsev was not their man. Which meant that he had to be brought down at the first opportunity.

This is where I could probably wrap up the saga of ANT, which fell victim to apparat intrigues rather than to the struggle between the old and the new, as is often presented. But the painstaking work of investigators Pogorelov and Rats, who for two years have been digging into the ANT lode, continues, and this prompts me to say a few more words.

I have no doubt that it is possible to dig up as many violations and transgressions on the part of ANT as one would want to—for the simple reason that in 1989 it was impossible to do business in the USSR without breaking the Criminal Code. It does not make sense, however, to air this dirty linen now that people convicted under "economic" articles are being released from jail. The same applies in full degree to the incident with the tanks. From this point of view the "ANT case" has to be closed, the sooner the better.

On the other hand, a study of the "Project ANT" technique may produce exceptionally large amounts of valuable information on the penetration of international economic relations by the KGB and party structures. It does not necessarily mean that all this activity would be of a criminal nature, although such a possibility cannot be dismissed. But all of it was covert. Based on this, the final and absolutely not rhetorical question: Is there any assurance that the investigators, in fact representing the KGB, will be able to conduct a proper investigation, and is it not their function rather to protect the "ANT case" from other investigators?

Interior Ministry Concentrates on New Tasks

OW2901021392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After the decree of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin on creation of the Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs was canceled, all orders of the Ministry's leadership, including order No. 5 by the head of the Ministry Viktor Barannikov, were repealed. The order envisaged the formation of rapid deployment squads by the Interior Ministry and the Agency of Federal Security to deal with possible riots following the price liberalization. This information was provided by Interior Major General Vladislav Nasinovsky at a briefing at the Russian Interior Ministry press center in Moscow Tuesday [28 January]. He said that after the order's repeal the Interior Ministry personnel concentrate on other tasks,

in particular, on prevention of illegal removal of food and consumer goods from the republic.

Registered Crimes in 1991 Surpasses 2 Million

OW2801193992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the past year the number of crimes registered in the Russian Federation surpassed for the first time 2 million (2,173,074) twice as many as in 1985, when perestroyka began. These data were mentioned on Tuesday [28 January] at a press conference given by Russia's interior ministry.

In 1991 the general growth of crime increased by 18.1%. The general revealment of crimes was slightly less than 50%.

Theft continues to prevail: 67.4%. Government and public property gets stolen increasingly often.

The biggest number of street crimes was registered in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Russia's law-enforcement agencies are particularly concerned over the growth of organized crime whose technical equipment becomes increasingly better. Organized criminals infiltrate into business groups and government structures, and expand their activity abroad. According to the interior ministry, more than 2,000 criminal gangs act in Russia. Some of them comprise 2 to 3 thousand members. 260 policemen on the Mafia's payroll were exposed last year alone.

Commentary Views Demands To Regulate Press

PM2801141192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Jan 92 p 2

["KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Commentary" by Yuriy Baturin: "Well Hello, Censorship!"]

[Text] "It is not permitted to print an account of firm conclusions regarding questions of state structure on which there have been no instructions revealing the intention of the Supreme Power." This direct censorial resolution, which was made in the time of the Russian Empire in the middle of the last century, should undoubtedly be recast in more democratic times. "The mass media are waging war against the state... In our country this is clearly the way the press is organized today, and we must regulate it," R. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, has said.

The demand for regulation has for some reason coincided with the shifting of Press Day from May to January. Events have been occurring thick and fast. Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Chairman F. Mukhametshin officially refuted a political item shown on Central Television. The Kazakh president's press service has reproached the Commonwealth press for putting pressure on an independent state. Uzbek President I. Karimov, speaking at a news conference about the student disturbances, virtually accused the newspaper IZVESTIYA of slander...

How then is the "unbridled" press to be regulated? It is natural to assume that the best way to do this would be by legal means. Especially given that, for example, the guilty party IZVESTIYA indignantly refuted I. Karimov's sarcastic remark that the newspaper might gear itself more to the Union Law on the Press (which, let us note in parentheses, was not at all bad), stating bluntly that "it is subordinate to the Russian Law on the Press."

But this is the problem—one small and even quite petty detail is getting in the way. The Russian Law on the Press, which was very nearly endowed with draconian amendments and regulatory clauses that were fortunately removed, did not actually come into force. Among the plethora of reasons for the delay, there is one that nobody can be held responsible for: The forms headed "RSFSR Law" are already null and void, but the new ones for a Russian Federation Law had not been printed.

However, in the field of legal regulation, the preparatory stage rather than the application of the law has only ever been valued in our country. This is probably why R. Khasbulatov suggested to parliament that it focus its attention on journalists' earnings, that it keep an eye on the funds—"where to direct money, and where not to." This line is a familiar one, which charts its origin back to November's RSFSR Government resolution No. 24, the sense of which is: "Who money should be given to." And now the issue is: "Who not to give it to." There is another measure being held in reserve—reorganization. Amalgamate TASS and RIA and see what happens, for example.

If something is shed from one place, it attaches itself someplace else. The application of Lomonosov's law to the freedom of the press cannot be ruled out either. At any rate, no sooner has the press been allowed to get away with it to some extent in Uzbekistan than it seems they intend to tighten the screws in Russia. Of course, it is easier to "regulate the press" using this law than the Law on the Press. It is even easier than using money, which is rapidly losing its value. It may be that in the light of inflation they are nontheless having to resort to the old tried and tested formulas. Last century editors were instructed to adopt four simple rules for unswerving guidance: "1) Relate events simply, avoiding any judgments as far as possible. 2) On occasion, punctuate the news with expressions of approval and sympathy or indignation and scorn. 3) Never or almost never mention the representative assemblies of second-rate European states, their constitutions, elections, the laws they pass, and their deputies. In a word, do not pay them the sort of attention that has been hitherto been the case. 4) Avoid mentioning the people's will, the demands and

needs of the working classes, disturbances that are occasionally fomented by the willfulness of students, and the expression of views by soldiers."

End of story.

'Free Russia' Party Not To Attend Congress

OW2801153992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The People's Party Free Russia (PPFR), led by Vice- President Aleksandr Rutskoy, has decided not to take part in the forthcoming Congress of Russia's Civic and Patriotic Forces—for fear that "the right-wing nationalist and anti-democratic groups may gain the upper hand" at the congress.

At the same time, "acknowledging that to maintain a balance between patriotism and democracy is an exclusively important task," the PPFR leadership ruled to begin preparations for a forum of pro- democracy patriotic forces.

The party leaders met on Monday [27 January] to discuss the government's budget policy and concluded that there were only "slim chances" that the Cabinet-suggested budget would be fulfilled.

The PPFR ruling board maintains that inflation will keep going up and out of control, and that slashing government funding for the defense sector—even with a view to converting munitions plants to civilian production "necessarily leads to the stoppage of many production facilities and disintegration of their staffs, and leave the hi-tech industry in a state of paralysis."

Democratic Party Leader Interviewed on Goals

AU2701172192 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 23 Jan 92 p 13

[Interview with Ilya Roytman, deputy chairman of the Democratic Party of Russia, by Jan Zizka; place and date not given: "We Are Opposed to Disintegration"]

[Text] Travkin's Democratic Party of Russia was one of the opposition parties established during the perestroyka period. It was part of the Movement for a Democratic Russia, a movement that played a significant role in changing the political system in the former Soviet Union. In recent months it has adopted a negative stance toward the Union's disintegration. The party's deputy chairman, Ilya Roytman, who is mainly responsible for ideological matters, discussed these issues with RUDE PRAVO.

[Zizka] What is your party's program and its most immediate aims?

[Roytman] On the one hand, our program is a neoconservative program. Its elements contain liberal qualities—human values, private ownership, and free enterprise. However, on the other hand, we are a national party. We proceed from Russian traditionalism, and we are of the opinion that Russian history has its own deep roots. The Russian state was conceived as a multi-ethnic state, and the Russian nation is made up of the many ethnic minorities that live here. We are opposed to any form of Russian disintegration; we are striving for its unity and inviolability. We have always been in favor of preserving the state that existed here. Therefore, we have not positively accepted the events associated with the Soviet Union's collapse. The Union agreement, prepared prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, was—in our opinion—more realistic and kept some hope alive that the country would stay united. We want to maintain the traditional relations that existed previously.

[Zizka] I am interested in your plans for the future.

[Roytman] We are a parliamentary party; we have 12 deputies. However, elections involving more parties have not yet been held in our country. In the Russian parliament we form part of the Russian Union deputies' group along with the Christian-democratic movements and the Party of Constitutional Democrats. As elections have not yet been held, it is impossible for us to establish a parliamentary faction. However, we have many supporters among the other deputies. We want to support the market reforms due to be implemented by Yeltsin's government, but not unreservedly. We have organizations in many Russian towns and villages that support the reform steps in practice. However, if the government implements anti-reform measures, such as, for example, the recent price increases, we will behave like a constructive opposition.

[Zizka] Does your party enjoy support among the people?

[Roytman] Russia is a large country, and the situation is different in various regions. It all depends on how the local organizations work. For example, we are the most popular party in the Krasnoyar region. On the whole, it is possible to say that the party has created its own image; the people know Travkin. Our support for a united Russia, for the Russian population in other republics, and for human rights is winning us sympathy.

[Zizka] You withdrew from the Movement for a Democratic Russia.

[Roytman] In our opinion, the Movement for a Democratic Russia played a positive role. It had two tasks: first, to establish the rudiments for a system involving more political parties and, second, to oppose the existing regime and to strive for its replacement by a democratic parliamentary system. There were various parties and various politicians with widely differing opinions in this movement; however, they were united in one thing—that it was necessary to break the Communist Party's

hold on power. When the CPSU ceased to exist, the Movement for a Democratic Russia's main tasks were fulfilled. The sensible thing would have been to transform it into a specific coalition or bloc of parties. However, when the Movement for a Democratic Russia's representatives began to realize that they would cease to be the democratic forces' real leaders, they decided to turn the movement into a party. However, a bad party has neither an organizational structure nor a program. Many people who disliked the Movement for a Democratic Russia's points of view regarding the country's unity have now joined us.

[Zizka] However, Stanislav Shatalin, the well known Russian economist, has resigned from your party.

[Roytman] Mr. Shatalin was in fact never a member of our party. Yes, he was a member formally; he led the party's Consultative Council. He was also closely associated with the Movement for Democratic Reforms (HDR), a liberal-communist group around Shevardnadze and Yakovlev. We hold Academician Shatalin in high esteem. However, he had to choose for himself—either to be here or there. Of course, Shatalin is ideologically closer to the HDR. I do not think that our party should suffer because of his departure.

[Zizka] Thank you for the interview.

'Social-Liberal Association' Forms in Moscow

LD2801202192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1110 GMT 25 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow, 25 January (TASS)—The Social-Liberal Association of the Russian Federation [Sotsialno-Liberalnoye Obyedineniye Rossiyskoy Federatsii], which held a constituent congress in Moscow today, is intended to unite democratic forces in order to achieve success in social and economic reforms. This new political organization intends to unite individual and collective members irrespective of their party membership who strive toward working out and conducting a policy combining principles of liberalism and social democracy and toward accord and constructive interaction.

The Social-Liberal Association, expressing the interests of various social groups, first of all of middle classes, sets as a major guiding line in its activity the stabilization of the social-political and economic situation in Russia, preservation of peace between the peoples and guaranteeing the irreversibility of democratic transformations.

It was stated at the congress that the association will "try to achieve the consolidation of democratic forces in society in order to jointly seek ways for extricating the country from the crisis and its nonviolent progress on a path of civilized development, that is the path of freedom and progress".

Parties Gather To Protest Yeltsin's Policies

LD2801222392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A demonstration took place outside the Russian parliament building in Moscow today. The demonstration was organized by the Vozrozhdeniye [renewal] Party, the National Front and the Russian Liberal Democratic Party. The few participants came to the demonstration under the well-known slogan of national salvation. In particular the reforms of the Russian leadership were subject to acute criticism as, in the opinion of the demonstrators, they are leading to the destruction of the country and the impoverishment of the people.

Not all those present were of the same opinion—there were people there who support the policies of Boris Yeltsin. From the White House the demonstrators set off for Old Square, and from there to the Lithuanian and Estonian Embassies in order to organize pickets in defense of the rights of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic states and for the release of political prisoners, including Sergey Parfenov, the former OMON [special purpose militia detachment] man.

[Video shows small demonstration with people holding banners, one reads: "Down with the policy of state banditry, economic terrorism and administrative idiotism." Other banner shown: "Ruslan! (Khasbulatov) Don't be a traitor! Yeltsin's reforms are our path." A further banner proclaims: "No rice, no butter, no cheese or soap. Soon we will see all this in the program 'Once upon a time.'" A woman is shown collecting money with a slogan reading: "Help to the families of the Riga and Vilnius OMON betrayed to a country, and betrayed by their country." Another woman is collecting for the "Support fund for Sergey Parfenov."]

Democratic Reforms Congress Postponed

OW2701223992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press service of the Movement for Democratic Reforms [DR], the Russian branch of the DR will hold its founding congress on February 15-16, not February 7-8 as planned initially.

The congress, which is to take place in Nizhny Novgorod, is expected to involve the prominent politician Aleksandr Yakovlev, Moscow's Mayor Gavriil Popov and other DR leaders.

Poll Conducted on Yeltsin's Popularity

LD2801131492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Nearly one-third of Muscovites have unconditionally stated their complete confidence in Russian President Boris Yeltsin. This transpired in the course of a study conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of Russia, jointly with the Moscow Sociological Agency. Boris Yeltsin's opponents amounted to 14 percent. Members of joint stock companies and exchanges have turned out to be the warmest supporters of the Russian president. Moscow's women also have a liking for Boris Yeltsin. By just 4 percent they exceed the number of men who appraise the president's activities positively.

People Polled on Prices, Government Policies

OW2901084392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0650 GMT 29 Jan 92

["Viewpoint" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **PRICES: ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OR STRICT CONTROL?**

According to the Data news agency, on January 25-26 the National Public Opinion Studies Center took an opinion poll among 1020 respondents in 13 Russian cities which showed that 45% believe only state control over prices and distribution of goods and resources can save the Russian economy.

36% think that full freedom of entreneurship is the only way out.

20% were undecided. Margin of error—3%

GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE'S INTERESTS

The same poll revealed that half of respondents found it difficult to answer which government's policies, of Ryzhkov, Pavlov or the present one, best met the interests of people.

34% of those polled pointed to the present Cabinet.

14% consider the Ryzhkov government the most "popular".

1 in 50 recalls with nostalgia the Pavlov team.

Margin of error—3%

Gaydar Claims Economy Better Than Expected

PM2901130392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Yegor Gaydar, Russian Federation deputy premier, by Mikail Berger; place and date not given: "The Russian Roulette of Russian Reform. We Have Ended up in, and Are Operating in a State of Postwar Ruin, Since We Have Suffered a Defeat In the Cold War, Yegor Gaydar Believes"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] The maxim "scarcely anything will come of the current reform"—scarcely the most favorable prediction—is being made today even by the specialists who are sympathetically disposed toward the Russian Government. Analysis of the reformers' actions revolves, as a rule, around the following judgements—in what way exactly will it fail, how soon will everything fail, and what will be the scale of the consequences of the failure. Society, having grown tired of waiting for stabilization and even a tiny improvement, will leap into the abyss of social upheavals with all the ensuing consequences.

The situation that has developed is being compared to Russian roulette where mutiny is the equivalent of the cartridge in the chamber. What will happen first—stabilization or popular discontent sweeping away everything in its path—that is the main question, and unlike in real roulette, it does not have a straightforward answer.

Yegor Gaydar, who has in the past few days been called "the last economic dictator" by the London TIMES (without any particular grounds, to my mind), is inclined to believe that stabilization will come first. He is now more convinced than he was at the beginning of the month that on the whole everything is developing within the framework of what the government expected and predicted. Commentators at home are calling Gaydar the exorcist because he frequently repeats this assessment. However, this does not prevent the Russian vice premier from sticking to his guns. Apart from the duty imposed by his post, what gives him grounds for such an optimistic view of the future?

"No, I do not rule out the possibility of the most unfavorable turn of events either," Gaydar said. "But at the moment everything is turning out even better than might have been expected. Of course, the situation is very grave and it is entirely comparable with standard postwar ruin. In actual fact we have experienced a serious and protracted war—the cold war—and we suffered a crushing defeat in it. Now we need the time and resources to resotre things.

[Berger] If "everything goes according to plan," then where in your diagram is the point marking the "first success" or the "first glimmer of hope?"

[Gaydar] I think that it will go unremarked by the majority of people—social claims always surpass society's real potential and even in rich countries, as a rule, people are dissatisfied with their situation and with the government.

[Berger] I cannot agree with this, at least regarding our specific situation, where an extra piece of sausage or waiting in line for an hour less than usual are perceived

as an unbelievable stroke of luck. But anyhow, when will you have the grounds to talk about the first changes for the better?

[Gaydar] These changes have already come. I can see this in the fact that the nature of the questions that the government is being asked is changing. Suddenly people have started coming to us with the problem of overstocking with goods.

[Berger] Who is suffering from a surplus of goods, if it is not a secret?

[Gaydar] Strange as it may seem, difficulties with the sale of meat have arisen in Orenburg Oblast. They have asked that when the government concludes governmental food supply contracts, they should be taken into account. Of course, I understand that here we have come up against a specific regional situation, but it has arisen nevertheless. But here is a nonspecific situation: Demands that the government should immediately increase market funds for cars have completely ceased.

[Berger] But who would buy them up at 150,000-200,000 rubles apiece?

[Gaydar] So what do you want—that the stores be overstocked with "Zhigulis" at 10,000-15,000? At the moment no one is trying to come up with funds for the supply of agricultural equipment. And I believe that that is normal because financial restrictions, which are natural in a normal economy, have appeared. Before price liberalization, it was impossible to either persuade people or force them to stop buying up things simply to stock up.

[Berger] And yet there are more grounds for alarm than for optimism. And this is not just a question of the state of the economy and the continuing slump, but also the "political infrastructure" of reform. The miners are putting pressure on the government, squeezing a significant wage increase out of it. The miners' breakthrough and their achievements are a reference point for other sectors particularly those where it is technically possible to organize large-scale collective protest action. Mathematics professors or poets are not threatening to hold a nationwide strike, and even if they did, who would notice? Metallurgical workers and railroad workers are another matter. And if the wage claims have to be fully met, then all the sacrifices of the first few weeks of liberalization will be in vain—hyperinflation will maintain the total deficit and speed up the breakdown of production.

In its search for immediate nationwide sympathy, parliament is trying virtually to double the budget expenditure at the same time as preparing extensive lists of controlled prices. The parliamentary speaker is periodically demanding the government's resignation and promising a reduction of taxes.

[Gaydar] The miners' demands did not come as a surprise to us, and in the same way the concessions we made to them as regards labor remuneration are not a defeat. As far as the other sectors are concerned, then in the majority of cases, this will not be the government's problem. Coal prices are being regulated, so it is quite natural to turn to the government. When producers of goods at free prices make analogous demands, then the question of labor remuneration will depend on the specific possibilities of sectors, plants, and specific employers.

Yes, unfortunately parliament is by no means supporting us in everything, but then the government is by no means abruptly changing its position.

[Berger] The word "abruptly" implies that there is a possibility of "smooth" changes in the government's position, does it not?

[Gaydar] Obviously we are not going to keep insisting on something just for the sake of insisting. It is possible that concessions will be made, but minimal ones, not fundamental ones, not destructive ones.

[Berger] Do taxes come under fundamental or permissible concessions?

[Gaydar] Taxes come under the sphere that requires the utmost caution in making decisions.

[Berger] Then I have a question that requires a most specific answer. Do you intend to honor the commitments to the citizens that the previous government took upon itself? I mean the indexation of savings and of deposits made for specific purposes.

[Gaydar] We are not expecting any surprises with the 40 percent indexation of deposits which was carried out following last year's price hike. These payments will not present any difficulties. Our biggest problem in this respect is the "Harvest-90" checks and the special deposits for obtaining cars. We removed the excise duty and doubled the value of the deposits, but unfortunately it is completely impossible to reindex them fully in accordance with the new prices of vehicles. In the same way as it is impossible to index ordinary savings.

[Berger] I do not think that that will bring you more supporters among the people whose savings are losing value before their very eyes.

[Gaydar] We cannot win over supporters with empty promises. [Gaydar ends]

Will Gaydar's team manage to get ahead of the growing discontent? On 28 January the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (the former Science and Industry Union) Experts' Institute presented journalists with a report on the first steps of the reform in Russia. The authors of the report believe that we are in the middle of a crisis which will continue for another sixteen months or two years. Analyzing the various economic and political aspects fo the crisis, the experts are putting forward three possible scenarios for the future development of events.

The first, an optimistic one, presumes that all the government's plans will be implemented. But even in that event you must not expect that the shortage of goods will be completely overcome, since the fall in production will not come to an end. But the main thing is that this scenario is connected with great burdens on the population from the point of view of a fall in the living standard, although from the point of view of saving the economy, it is the most preferable one. Experts believe that it is unlikely to be implemented. The pessimistic scenario is based on the premise that nothing comes of the government's intentions and rampant hyperinflation will have to be stopped by freezing prices. This in turn, would mean the collapse of the reform. The report assesses the probability of the second scenario as greater than the first.

The third option, which comes between the first and the second, is seen as the most probable one. Stabilization will not occur in the immediate future, inflation will not be sky-high but it will be sufficiently high (250-500 percent per annum), and a fundamental breakthrough will not occur before 1993.

It must be noted that the authors of the report, who include many people who oppose the present Russian Government on principle, have agreed that the intellectual reserves in the reform policy in our country are very limited and it will scarcely prove possible to form even one more team that is as good as the present one.

State Adviser Explains Purpose of New Fund

OW2801090692 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 2000 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Interview with Sergey Borisovich Stankevich, Russian Government adviser, by Tatyana Vedeneyeva in studio; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Vedeneyeva] I would like to introduce our guest, Sergey Borisovich Stankevich, adviser to the Russian Government. Sergey Borisovich: Recently, the government, deputies, the press, and even the church have been frequently urging all of us, the inhabitants of Russia, to have patience and self-control and to apply all of our energies, and consequently everything will change, life will improve, and Russia will really become a great state again. Where, in your opinion, can we seek these reserves? Where does the foundation of the state's strength lie?

[Stankevich] Russia has always been a state where material things have been important but not dominating. To a great degree, even in the most critical of situations, when Russia has been pushed to the brink of survival, it has coped with the crisis by mobilizing the peoples' spiritual and intellectual resources. I think that the same thing will happen this time. These very same spiritual and intellectual resources have not yet been significantly called upon or put in effect, and it seems to me they will play a decisive role.

[Vedeneyeva] The real reason we invited you to this studio, of course, is that it has become known that a new Russian fund called Novoye Pokoleniye [New Generation] has been established. One of the programs—I am holding one of the fund's programs in my hand—one of the aims of this fund is the program called World University. What is that, briefly?

[Stankevich] This fund is not exactly new; it was created in 1990 on the initiative of a few fairly young deputies, parliamentarians, and politicians. I will name just two names: Sergey Shakhray and Nikolay Federov, well-known Russian politicians. I also participated along with other enthusiasts—such as Andrey Sharonov, for example. The task of the Novoye Pokoleniye fund is to give an opportunity to our young talent, young people who have been quite ready for some kind of a serious lifetime break, but for various reasons could not achieve it in time. In the first instance, we aimed to assist young politicians. It seemed necessary to us to inject new blood into Russian politics as soon as possible. This was partly successful.

The World University program is, in fact, a new program, and the Novoye Pokoleniye fund would like to make it principally its own for the next few years. The concept of the World University program is extremely simple.

[Vedeneyeva] It is simple, and yet it seems to me to be complicated in its execution.

[Stankevich] That is quite right, it is complicated to fulfill, but the intention itself is completely obvious. We are saying that it is extremely important now—as we said in the beginning—to mobilize these Russian intellectual and spiritual resources in support of the construction of the state and those reforms that are not being carried out. In general, it is important that Russia's brightest and sharpest minds—of which, thank God, we still have a wealth of in light of all the other deficiencies—receive valuable spiritual fodder to enable them to mobilize their maximum knowledge and cultural achievements in the service of Russia. The concept, in essence, is this: From the whole body of books published at various periods throughout the world—particularly in Russia and the surrounding world—select those books that are accutely needed now for schools, high schools [litsey], universities, and even kindergartens. Select those books that mark breakthroughs in the field of knowledge. Select the best textbooks for different levels of education.

[Vedeneyeva, interrupting] Do you mean textbooks, specifically—teaching aids, right?

[Stankevich] These do not have to be textbooks in the purest sense. These are textbooks, of course, and perhaps textbooks first and foremost, but they are also educational and instructional books that are not only textbooks in form and content but also mark intellectual breakthroughs—breakthoughs without comprehension and assimilation of which one cannot imagine a professional in any state or political sphere or scientific

activity. We would like to select such books, translate them if they are in different languages, and brightly and beautifully publish them—and thus give the new generation entering into active, professional activity an opportunity to acquire these books in a timely fashion and arm themselves by including them in their intellectual arsenal. Of course, we would like to give priority to Russian thinkers; for example, we would like to publish Professor Zinkovskiy's remarkable two-volume "History of Russian Philosophy" and works by Ivan Iliyn, Georgiy Fedotov, and Sergey Bulgakov, works that have hitherto not been published in any significant numbers. However, it is also very important to open the way for young Russians to have access to foreign-published books that are really fundamental contributions to the treasure house of world knowledge.

Moreover, this need has always existed, but now it is particularly acute. Over the decades-long existence of a totalitarian regime in our country, a giant vault of dogmatic literature had accumulated, a huge body whose mass has filled the shelves of libraries and universities and is now crushing. To a signifinant degree, this is already pulp literature. The task before us is to intensively expel this body of literature, to replace this surrogate literature with an opportunity to have constant access, constant intercourse with the treasure house of world thinking—Russian thought and world thought. This task must be carried out very quickly; otherwise, at worst, we are risking a serious pollution of the minds of yet another generation of Russians. This must not happen.

This is where the World University program begins. It does not intend to open a new publishing house or have different institutes or establishments. Our task, in concept, is simple. We want to use the publications, translators, printers, and talented teachers that already exist here in Russia. Having welded them into a unit and given them the opportunity to interact with businessmen who possess the appropriate means, we want to publish on a large scale, quickly without and dragging it out. The publishing cycle is lengthy. A textbook is usually published in two or three years; we cannot wait that long. We would like to do this quickly using the structures of businesses that have expressed a very serious interest in the World University program.

[Vedeneyeva] That is, those commercial structures that have made a concrete contribution, right?

[Stankevich] We aimed...

[Vedeneyeva, interrupting] This is all so expensive. A textbook means huge circulation, a huge quantity of paper.

[Stankevich] This is a very serious matter; you are quite correct. This is not within the capabilities of just enthusiasts alone, a state publishing house, only businessmen, or only our fund. The need here for a unified effort is indispensable. We have tried under all circumstances to avoid any kind of ballyhoo surrounding the program until it has been thoroughly thought out and discussed with all the possible participants. We are now precisely at the stage of practical accomplishment.

The books have been selected in several stages. We began with 6,000 books as the basic field for us; thereafter, we selected 100 of the more substantial ones, and from them, five to 10 of the paramount ones. That is how serious the selection was. Now we have agreement with the translators, and the decisive moment for us was the meeting with the business circles that was held a few days ago. You were a participant, so you can judge for yourself. I think the discussion was a serious one, and we have reached an agreement.

[Vedeneyeva] Today we have a bigger audience than on that day; therefore, those businessmen who did not attend that meeting are hearing us now and, of course, they too have an opportunity to take part in this remarkable program. The one thing that somehow amazed me is, I have this impression that judging from this program, Novoye Pokoleniye will be structured exclusively on humanitarian sciences. At the moment, in any case, everything that is listed here has a leaning toward humanitarian literature, humanitarian knowledge.

[Stankevich] We, of course, did not want to limit ourselves...

[Vedeneyeva, interrupting] Or, it is just the beginning, right?

[Stankevich, continuing] ...only to humanitarian knowledge; that is only the beginning. Maybe this reflects the fact that the program initiators were mainly from humanities and have formulated the undertaking in their favor. However, other sciences naturally will also remain in our sphere of interest.

[Vedeneyeva] Our program wishes your program success, and we hope that those businessmen and other interested people in general could help to see that our coming generation absorbs the best that has been created by our scholars, people of the arts, creative work, and the world culture and science.

[Stankevich] I would also like to call upon all enthusiasts and forward thinking, state-minded businessmen willing to contribute to the formation of the golden intellectual reserve of Russia.

Directive Issued To End Trade Monopolies

LD2901003392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Back to the matter of high prices and how to combat them by means of demonopolization. The Russian Government has issued a directive which notes that the decree on the commercialization of Russian trade enterprise activities is not in effect being enacted. The trade organizations [torgy] are preserving their

monopoly position. The directive, signed by Gennadiy Burbulis, now obliges the local authorities to take immediate measures to eliminate trusts, trade organizations and associations as soon as possible.

New Railroads Minister Interviewed on CIS

LD2801235992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have already reported to you that Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on the formation of a new Railroads Ministry for the Russian Federation. Gennadiy Matveyevich Fadeyev has been appointed minister. We introduce him to you today.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent A. Kozhukhova] How will the administration of the transportation process regarding the railroads of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] be carried out now, during the present transition period, under the conditions of the new economic space.

[Fadeyev] At the current time, state structures have been created in the majority of the Commonwealth states to deal with the administration of railroad transport, which resolve republican tasks internally. At the same time there are common matters which cannot be resolved within the framework of a single state since carriage and container depots currently remain under common jurisdiction. Precision in interstate transportation—which comprises almost half of all of the transportation of the former Union—remains very important.

These and other issues remain the responsibility of the Railroads Ministry of the Russian Federation. We will be prepared to consider any issue which concerns our current neighbors in the sphere of operations of railroad transport and we will find constructive solutions in the interests of the Commonwealth states. However, I would like to stress that all of this will be done on a mutually advantageous basis.

[Kozhukhova] A working meeting between leaders of the railroads of the Russian Federation and representatives of the railroad administrations of the Commonwealth states and Georgia took place in Moscow today as well. An agreement was reached there on the main principles of operation. A decision was made to entrust the operational administration of the transportation process between the railroads of the CIS to the Russian Railroads Ministry for the transition period, on a temporary basis, until an executive interstate coordinating council for the railroad transport is set up. [end recording]

Railroad Heads Discuss Transportation, Fares

LD2901001892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Ministry of Railroads was almost the last of the former Union structures to transfer to the jurisdiction of Russia. Today the heads of the railroad transport gathered for their first board meeting. The Russian ministry was set up with the aim of stopping the destructive process of the disintegration of the railroad system, stated Railroads Minister Gennadiy Fadeyev.

The volume of transportation is set to fall as a result of the fact that the majority of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries have introduced their own tariffs and prices for tickets. The Ukraine cancelled many long-distance routes, like Kharkov-Vladivostok, Kiev-Baku, and others. To ensure a normal operation of the railroad transport it is necessary to coordinate the work of the railroad systems of the independent member-states of the Commonwealth and offer the best possible pay to railroad workers.

The budgetary financing of the industry increased this year by almost four times as compared with last year. But one must also take inflation into account. I am afraid there is no good news for passengers. The price of a train ticket has doubled in Russia and very soon it is to increase three-fold. The cargo tariffs which have been increased five-fold will grow eight-fold.

Government, Union Social Insurance Resolution

PM2901115392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 92 First Edition p 2

[Resolution No. 5 of the Russian Federation Government and the Council of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the Russian Federation "On Improving the Management of the Russian Federation Social Insurance Fund in 1992," signed by G. Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, and I. Klochkov, chairman of the Council of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the Russian Federation, and dated Moscow, 4 January]

[Text] In order to improve the system of managing the Russian Federation Social Insurance Fund in the conditions of transition to market relations, the Russian Federation Government and the Council of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions [FNPR] of the Russian Federation resolve:

1. To open a single current account for the fund's republic branch and regional branches in order to tighten control over the receipt and expenditure of the Russian Federation Social Insurance Fund's assets.

2. To deem it advisable to appoint to the Russian Federation Social Insurance Fund Board representatives of the Ministry of Labor and Employment for the

Russian Federation's Population, the Ministry of Social Security for the Russian Federation's Population, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and Finance, the State Tax Service, and the Central Bank, as well as representatives of republic professional associations which do not belong to the FNPR of the Russian Federation.

3. To establish that, in order to tighten state control over the state of labor conditions and to reduce industrial injuries and occupational diseases in enterprises, organizations, and establishments irrespective of the forms of ownership, the Russian Federation Social Insurance Fund's assets are to be utilized for additional funding of the activities of organs of the Russian Federation State Commission of Experts on Labor Conditions.

4. That the Russian Federation Social Insurance Fund should:

submit proposals within two weeks on making amendments to the Interim Directive on the Russian Federation Social Insurance Fund for approval in the prescribed manner;

prepare and submit proposals to the Russian Federation Government within one month on measures to strengthen the social insurance system.

[Signed] G. Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government
I. Klochkov, chairman of the Council of the FNPR of the Russian Federation

[Dated] Moscow, 4 January 1992

Privatization Seminar Opens at Business School

PM2901103692 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Yelena Tokareva report: "In the World of Wise Thoughts on Privatization"]

[Excerpts] During these days, 27-29 January, a private organization with a high reputation, namely the MGIMO [Moscow State Institute of International Relations] International Business School, is holding a seminar on privatization for the top leaders of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. Well-known organizations like the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are taking part in the seminar.

On the first day the seminar was addressed by John Nellis of the World Bank, who delivered a report on the experience of privatization in foreign countries, and Dmitriy Vasilyev, deputy [as published] of the Russian State Committee for Property, who spoke about the coming experience of privatization in Russia. Vasilyev's speech made a phenomenal impact: A large proportion of what he said came as news to those present. Suffice it to say that the vouchers known among the people as "privatization checks" will most likely not happen this year, the decisive year for privatization, or next year. At all events, the large-scale issuing of vouchers to the population is not foreseen. [passage omitted]

According to Ye. Gaydar, price liberalization was inevitable, because it was already taking place on a large scale. Can the same be said for privatization? Is "black privatization" taking place in our republic? World Bank experts observed: "We have seen several examples of state policy or the absence of a control mechanism allowing individuals to appropriate state property on the pretext of privatization." Here they are talking mainly about examples from world practice, rather than our country's experience. But it is a threat to us in the highest degree. And if this practice takes root in our soil, the government could certainly be blamed for it.

But for the time being the speeches of the foreign experts and our own practitioners are aimed at showing all the possible versions of privatization of all types of state property. How these priceless assets are handled by the local privatization committees, who will be given full power on this matter, will depend not only on the extent of those people's knowledge, but also their level of morality.

Privatization training in the republic is taking its course. The top leaders will be followed by lower-level leaders. And to ensure that the level of their knowledge does not decline according to the level of their position, the MGIMO International Business School, in holding this seminar, took care to ensure that everything that was said would be published in a textbook. So we will find ourselves living in a world of wise thoughts about privatization.

Bank Warned Against Illegal Currency Deals

PM2801154492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Central Bank Press Service report: "Central Bank Announcement"]

[Text] In connection with instances of violations of existing legislation on the part of the All-Russian Exchange Bank, taking the form of currency operations to sell rubles for freely convertible currency to foreign bodies, to a total sum of 117.5 million U.S. dollars, the Central Bank of the Russian Federation demanded that the All-Russian Exchange Bank annul the aforesaid deals, which was immediately done by the All-Russian Exchange Bank.

The All-Russian Exchange Bank was warned that in the event of a repetition of the violations of existing legislation, the Bank of Russia will be forced to revoke the All-Russian Exchange Bank's license to conduct currency operations and to apply other sanctions against it within the framework of Russian Federation laws.

Administrations Instructed To Privatize Trade

OW2701224492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government has instructed the local administrations to immediately scrap the trade boards, trusts and other managerial associations inherited from the Soviet times and give trade agencies a free hand to act. The instruction, signed by First Vice-Premier Gennadiy Burbulis, follows the acknowledgment that President Yeltsin's decree of 25 November 1991 on the "commercialization of trade" has largely remained unfulfilled.

The government document says that the mentioned managerial structures have prevented shops, cafeterias, cafes and restaurants from obtaining the official status of legal entities. They have blocked action against monopolistic trends in the setting of retail prices.

Economist Argues Need for Monetary Reform

PM2701144792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 92 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Doctor of Economic Sciences Anatoliy Deryabin by A. Yevgenyev; place and date not given: "Anatoliy Deryabin: You Cannot Manage Without Money Reform"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] "Our heavy chains will fall away, the dungeons will collapse, and freedom will welcome us joyfully at the entrance..." Just recently this was the cheerful and poetic way in which some of our economists described the charms of market relations. Alas, reality has proved mercilessly prosaic. Half-empty shelves, uncontrolled prices, lines for bread and milk... Of course, a month is not long when far-reaching conclusions are appropriate. The market is only taking shape. And nonetheless... What are the thoughts about the present situation of those who argued that it is no longer permissible to go slowly or to hesitate, we must immediately begin radical reforms. If only the liberalization of prices.

[Deryabin] I have been and remain convinced that prices can no longer be restrained. By the end of last year they had already gotten out of control, my interlocutor, Doctor of Economic Sciences Anatoliy Deryabin, believes. And in general it is not high prices which are terrible, but the inflation, which Pavlov had already launched with his incompetence. It is now quite hard to stop it. And with galloping inflation there can be no question of increasing the mass of goods and expanding production. On the contrary, production is being curtailed. Who will invest funds with no knowledge of what dividends they will bring or whether they will get nothing for their pains.

[Yevgenyev] It looks as though the first month of the reform has not surprised you in any way?

[Deryabin] There were no special surprises for me. Deliveries into the retail network are being reduced but the rich have not started to demand less. That means that it is increasingly hard for ordinary people to acquire the goods they need. As a whole our forecast regarding the movement of prices was sufficiently precise. On average they increased sixfold in January. And a fifteenfold increase awaits us in the next six months. Unless, of course, we begin seriously to reduce state expenditure.

[Yevgenyev] But it has been cut back. In the construction field and the defense sphere.

[Deryabin] That is a relative reduction, what is important is an absolute reduction. Take the military budget. We have almost doubled wages for all servicemen. Yet officers—young boys bursting with health—fit very well into the market economy and adapt successfully in commercial structures. I know of this from more than hearsay. I myself have helped them feel at home and have given them advice. Just one example. Officers from the Turkestan Military District anxious to settle in Altay Kray are now constructing housing for themselves, selling half their product at market prices. Give them freedom, offer them a real business, and these people will move mountains. They earn their own living. And they help their colleagues. But what are we observing? Endless demands: Give, give, give.

[Yevgenyev] Now ultimatums of this kind are becoming virtually the norm.

[Deryabin] The government itself is to blame for that. How, in a catastrophic financial situation, was it possible to promise to index incomes for a substantial proportion of the population, to raise the minimum wage, pensions, and grants, and to give a substantial increment to budget-funded organization workers. And a separate increment for national education workers. But in what way are we worse, they argued at the Norilsk metallurgical combine, and set themselves a minimum wage of 20,000 rubles [R]. The miners, doctors, and fishermen are on the verge of striking... I fear that we will not be able to halt this ninth wave.

[Yevgenyev] What do you suggest?

[Deryabin] Telling the people the truth. Our predecessors made a mass of mistakes and acts of stupidity and we too have been incautious in giving promises. Today the coffers are empty. If the Norilsk metallurgical workers can earn their fantastic wages—then let them do so. But not a kopek from the budget. The liberalization of prices will lead to a drastic decline in the living standard of the overwhelming majority of the population. But by sugaring the pill with budget handouts we will only prolong your sufferings. I suggest that Gaydar's team understands that quite well. And if it is guilty of anything then it is only of following the politicians' lead.

[Yevgenyev] But with today's prices we shall simply die of hunger. It is becoming increasingly difficult for even a moderately well off family to make ends meet.

[Deryabin] It will be even worse if we start up the budget pump. Then the economy will die, leaving us with no chances of survival. Tell me why I should produce more bread, curds, meat, and eggs if it can save by simply increasing prices. And i shall increase them, because people are receiving increasingly large wages and can pay for my goods. The excessive prices must be given time to grind down the enormous incomes which the population has accumulated in recent years. Otherwise the disease will not be cured, it will merely become chronic. As for pensioners and invalids, it is preferable to give them support in kind.

[Yevgenyev] We are not alone in this world. The indexing of incomes is a widespread practice.

[Deryabin] I shall not deny it. The social democrats in France, Italy, and Britain have resorted to it as soon as a production slump was detected. But you note that when powerful individuals, irrespective of party allegiance, like Reagan, Thatcher, and Kohl came to power, all indexing ceased. Inflation faded away and industry received a new impetus toward development. Yet after all their problems are no match for ours.

[Yevgenyev] But Gaydar is not even setting himself the task of immediately achieving a boost to production. His aim is different—at the initial stage stabilizing finances and achieving a budget without a deficit.

[Deryabin] With the inflation we have, a budget without a deficit is an unrealizable dream. Recently the vice premier himself admitted it would not work...

[Yevgenyev] The government is pursuing a quite tough tax policy. It is being strongly criticized for that. And the opinion has become widespread that the new value added tax is to blame for the high prices.

[Deryabin] That is not quite the case. Of itself this is a strictly market tax, and quite flexible. Naturally, initially there was a lot of confusion and there were even legal cases involving its application. Now it seems to have been sorted out. Nonetheless, I repeat that it has not pushed prices up that powerfully. There is an obvious exaggeration here. But from the viewpoint of incentives to production development one can argue. World practice says that the optimum rate for this tax is 15-18 percent. If it is higher (it is 28 percent in our country) the entrepreneur presses the "stop" button or—more frequently—begins to look for loopholes to avoid the tax. And he often finds them. The financial expert's art is to find the reasonable limit. To fill the coffers and not to quash the desire to develop production.

[Yevgenyev] Perhaps given the present escalation of prices for food there is some point in exempting food producers from value added tax?

[Deryabin] But why only food producers? Why not exempt raw material for a finished product? And agricultural equipment? And clothing? And environment-friendly equipment? We will end up god knows where that way. We shall end up in a vicious circle from which we will never get out. Incidentally, the "nonexempt" will, not without justification, regard themselves as aggrieved and will also demand indulgences because in our country everything is in short supply. And prices will also increase for everything. If anyone should be exempted from tax then it is investors. And those who invest their personal savings in shares.

[Yevgenyev] There is another suggestion to limit the growth of prices to a profitability ceiling. And trade revenue too.

[Deryabin] Well, that is the same old socialism on a small scale. It has been done. Profits have been restricted. No one was any better off. Why should we put our necks in the same millstone? Is it not clear that in that case everyone will increase prices to the designated ceiling? And they will be decreed prices, not market prices at all. In brief, we shall be carrying one more Pavlov-style price increase operation. But the increase will affect everything.

[Yevgenyev] I sense that you take a skeptical view of the possibility of strengthening the ruble.

[Deryabin] In general I cannot understand how it is possible to strengthen some single currency when everyone around it obsesses by the idea of introducing their own currencies. They are equipping themselves with coupons and check books, dumping rubles in Russia, and stripping its market. Will they all grow wiser together tomorrow? It is naive to suppose so.

[Yevgenyev] Does that mean a money reform?

[Deryabin] I think it does. And a confiscatory reform. Previously it seemed to me we would manage, we would extricate ourselves. Now I can see there is no other way out. Only not the kind of reform for which Professor Sergeyev is fighting—in proportion to income. But Erhard's way—40 marks each for everyone. And that's all. Begin at the beginning. Earn your bread with your own hands, mind, and knowledge. Gradually accumulations, both private and in the accounts of state enterprises and commercial structures, will be unfrozen. The further we go the more there will be. But the start should be the same for everyone.

[Yevgenyev] Do you believe that is fair?

[Deryabin] No, I do not. But when the fate of the nation is at stake there are more important things than fairness. Yes, it will be a hard decision for the government and in particular for the people. But I am increasingly convinced that sooner or later it will have to be made. After all, illusions also have to be paid for.

Coal, Oil Prices Expected To Be Freed 1 Apr

LD2801224192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, citing sources close to the Russian Federation Government, reports that coal and oil prices will be freed by 1 April. It concludes that this step will have a significant influence on the economic situation of all the Commonwealth countries.

In theory, this is a well-founded conclusion. Increases in coal and oil prices will lead to increases in costs throughout the entire energy system. Transportation prices will increase, too, which means that economic relations could break down because of failures to deliver parts or whatever.

There is a reason for the concept of the oil equivalent [neftyanoy ekvivalent]. Price formation as a whole takes its direction from it. In other words, if prices on energy carriers are freed, it will lead to a drastic jump in prices on everything. That is within Russia. As for the external market within the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States], Russia at first sight has the advantage here. It can obtain extra profits. There again the other members of the Commonwealth can free prices on goods and artefacts that are in short supply in Russia.

And what is not in short supply?

This is a terrifying forecast but today we telephoned the Fuel and Energy Ministry of the Russian Federation. They refuted the information in ARGUMENTY. A responsible member of the ministry staff, with reference to Deputy Ministers Samosov and Grushevenko, said that in a few days a resolution from the Cabinet of Ministers will be published whereby fuel prices will remain fixed.

Critical Situation With Oil Supplies Viewed

PM2801161992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 92 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Kuznetsov article: "How Much Does a Petroleum License Cost, Mr. Official?"]

[Text] The circumstances of the Union's and the Union ministries' collapse toward the end of last year created a situation whereby, as Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov put it, "we completely lost control of the economy." Many people appeared who wanted to "fish in troubled waters," and this almost got the country into an energy crisis. And this is putting it mildly. We lost control over our basic source of hard currency revenues—petroleum.

In November, most likely when the annual results were being summed up (in other words somewhat by chance), it suddenly emerged that the country would not be supplied with the necessarry quantity of petroleum products for the month of December, while deliveries to foreign countries had at the same time sharply increased. A session of the government was urgently convened and a resolution was adopted to create a commission to regulate the volumes of petroleum deliveries to the foreign market. Apart from specialists, representatives of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], the Ministry of Justice, and the Russian Prosecutor's Office were recruited by it. Even at the initial stages of its work, it became evident that all permissible norms for the export of energy resources had been exceeded. Approximately 100 of all the petroleum export licenses submitted for renewal—in all about 400—were immediately rejected. This accounted for millions of tonnes of raw materials. An expert study was carried out and showed that the current licenses exceeded realistic export capacities in petroleum 5 times, in diesel fuel—9 times, and in furnace fuel oil—31 times. A decision was adopted: Due to the acute shortage, export quotas for these resources in December should be limited to the monthly norm for deliveries. Moreover, according to Eduard Grushevenko, deputy minister of the fuel and energy industry, the commission was forced not to renew licenses which were issued earlier to purchase consumer goods (including under the "Harvest-90" program) and equipment for the processing of agricultural produce and the production of building materials, for which contracts had already been concluded and cross deliveries began. License renewal was also refused for 1,092,000 tonnes of petroleum which had been bought from enterprises on the exchange.

By this time the inhabitants of Chita and Khabarovsk were already experiencing an acute fuel shortage. Commitments to CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] members were thwarted. A significant blow was dealt to the country's foreign trade balance and to its internal market. Many enterprises had to pay penalties.

The country's energy resources were in the meantime flooding to the West at dumping prices in exchange for goods at inflated prices.

How could this happen to petroleum—our strategic raw material?

The Union Ministry of the Economy had simply not amended the balance for a whole year, had not checked up on the actual state of affairs, probably relying on that schoolboy dictum about "countless riches." And licenses were handed out. Even without quotas! Incidentally, why should we blame the ministry as a whole. Specific people dealt with this, whose names we have still to find out from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and the Union ministry, and the RSFSR State Licensing Committee and its regional representatives.

In the current year this situation threatens to become even more acute. First, due to a reduction in the volumes of petroleum extraction. Second, according to several forecasts, the export of fuel and energy resources is going to increase. How? "I must tell you bluntly," Ruslan Khasbulatov stated at a meeting with Russian entrepreneurs, "at the expense of the vast number of bribes being given to functionaries, including those in the state apparatus and in our Russian government. This is no secret."

Supreme Soviet

Commission Urges 'Firm Stand' on Ukraine

LD2501113892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2047 GMT 22 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the RF [Russian Federation] Supreme Soviet Commission for International Affairs and External Economic Relations, suggests the RF leadership should take a 'firm stand' as regards Ukraine. On January 20, on the instructions of Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairperson, RF Supreme Soviet, a letter by Vladimir Lukin dated 12 January 1992 and addressed to Ruslan Khasbulatov, in which Lukin reported that the talks between the state delegations of Russia and Ukraine held in Kiev on January 11, 1992 instill pessimism in him, was circulated among the members of RF Supreme Soviet Presidium. Lukin suggests that an expert group of the Government and RF Supreme Soviet be formed and instructed to analyze the efficiency of RF president signing an edict to place all the armed forces of the former USSR under Russia's jurisdiction which had been drafted by the presidential apparatus, or an edict on placing the Black Sea fleet, including its bases and repair centers, above all, Sevastopol, Balaklawa, Nikolaev under Russia's jurisdiction, to be followed by negotiations with Ukranian side on the status of those bases and possible handing over of some of the fleet's units to Ukraine.

As deterrent measures for likely confrontation reaction on the part of Ukraine, Lukin suggests that the expert group should review the following options: Giving notice to Ukraine of the possibility of immediate transfer of war orders from Ukraine's war industries to the appropriate industries of Russia or other CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member-states redeployment to Russia from the territory of Ukraine of the Air-Force formations that are most valuable for Russia. Lukin suggests that the committees and the commissions should simultaneously start discussing whether the handing over of the Crimea to Ukraine was legally correct on January 14, this year.

The Commission for International Affairs and External Economic Relations of RF Supreme Soviet headed by Lukin passed a resolution declaring the decisions of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 1954 handing over the Crimea to Ukraine null and void. Lukin believes that if this act is found to be lawless and repressive one can expect activation of the Crimea independent movement even without our direct interference. As a result of that, Lukin maintains that Ukraine's administration will be faced with a dilemma—either to agree with the transfer of the Fleet and its bases to Russia, or to put in question the fact that the Crimea is part of Ukraine.

Prognosticating the reaction of the West to these actions, Lukin believes: On a short-term basis one can expect a spectrum of positions from a neutral one to that of ritual criticism. On a long-term basis respect for Russian administration and its ability to defend the national interests of Russia will be enhanced. Lukin maintains, that a submissive stand will play in the hands of the right-wing nationalist group in Russia, whereas a firm one will raise a broad wave of support for the Russian administration which will give us more time and opportunities for manoeuvres in order to implement the economic reform.

Vladimir Lukin is currently on holidays. Ruslan Khasbulatov refused to voice his personal opinion at the Supreme Soviet Presidium as regards this letter, and suggested that the members of the RF Presidium look into it and ponder over it. As the First Deputy Chairperson of the Supreme Soviet Sergey Filatov told PF [POSTFACTUM], the circulation of Lukin's letter among the members of the Presidium had been accounted for by the fact that the Supreme Soviet will inevitably face the entire web of problems as regards Ukraine, and it has to be prepared and to be aware of all the options.

Sergey Filatov maintains: Any bullying is out of place and inacceptable now.... If we we to start telling Ukraine that it should resolve an issue in such and such a manner lest we should close certain faucets, this will mean the end, because there are some faucets which Ukraine can close to us—and it will mean death to us, there are faucets which we could close to Ukraine—and it will mean death to them. Filatov opines that the problems of the Crimea and the Black Sea fleet cannot be examined as being inter-connected: These are independent questions and I wouldn't hackle over them. The problem of the Crimea as well as the problem of the Black Sea fleet should be solved in a legal manner, through negotiations and not through ultimatums.

Filatov told PF that on January 21 he had a telephone conversation with Ukraine's Supreme Soviet chairperson Ivan Plyusch on the subject of the Crimea. Plyusch, according to Filatov, was indignant about Russia's imperial ways which, Plyusch maintained, found their expression in the resolution of RF Supreme Soviet's Commission on International Affairs and External Economic Relations dated 14 January, this year. The first deputy chairperson of the RF Supreme Soviet Sergey Filatov also told PF that Ukraine's certain steps as regards the armed forces, the introduction of its own currency devalues the CIS agreement.

Filatov reported that at a meeting of deputy chairpersons of the Supreme Soviets of the CIS member-states to be held in Minsk on January 24 it is envisaged to review the amendments made by the parliament of every republic while ratifying the agreement on the formation of the Commonwealth. In Filatov's words, RF Supreme Soviet, despite repeated requests sent to Russia's administration, has not received to date the amendments made by Ukraine while ratifying the agreement. Filatov declared

that he did not hold with by-passing the Supreme Soviets of the CIS member-states while tackling important intergovernmental issues.

'Wide Speculation' Noted

LD2401205292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Wide speculation follows in the wake of yesterday's [23 January] Russian parliament session and the decisions which question whether the Crimea belongs to the Ukraine. While government diplomats are trying to make friends with the second largest Slav republic—after Russia—parliamentary patriots seem to do everything to keep from waiving their principles. [passage omitted]

The Moscow White House now leans toward territorial redivision. No serious analyst thinks that the Crimea's return is possible, but there is another aspect in the game that has been started. Everybody remembers the wave of anger that flowed over the Ukraine after President Yeltsin's press service issued the statement in September on Russia's possible territorial claims to its neighbors. Vice President Rutskoy was then forced on an urgent mission to Kiev to relieve tension, resulting in a joint statement on the inviolability of borders. Yeltsin and Kravchuk last November concluded an interstate treaty and put their signatures under the same principles: There are no territorial claims. They heaved a sigh of relief in both capitals, but it did not last long. Ideas of revenge proved to be much more tenacious of life. An attack by the Russian parliament under present conditions can be regarded not only as a splash of patriotism but also as a step toward toughening relations between the Russian Government and President Yeltsin. As for the Kremlin, as far as is known they are rather concerned with practical implementation of reforms than with returning Oreanda, Koktebel, and Gurzuf.

Everybody remembers the results of a recent referendum in the Crimea, according to which the population wished to remain part of the Ukraine. Latest opinion polls confirm the people's choice. People were asked: How do you see the Crimea's future? The answers were as follows: 42.1 percent wish to stay in the Ukraine, 15.1 percent want to be part of Russia. The opinion poll was conducted by Krymsotsis and was published in MEGAPOLIS-EKSPRESS newspaper. This gives food for thought to those who do not dispute the right of peoples to self-determination. It is worth noting President Kravchuk's latest statement, in which he simply threatens to withdraw the Ukraine from the Commonwealth if relations with its neighbors become aggravated.

Budget Becomes Main Focus of 24 Jan Session

Gaydar Delivers Report

LD2401132192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0900 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] [Announcer] I will start the review of the latest news with a report on the session of the Russian parliament, where issues which I believe are most important for the future of Russia and the Ukraine are being discussed.

The Russian Supreme Soviet session decided that the Black Sea Fleet should not take an oath of allegiance to the Ukraine. The parliament also decided to reexamine the 1954 decisions related to the transfer of Crimea to the Ukraine. A final decision will be announced on 6 February.

Today, the plenary session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet started debating the budget message concerning the first quarter of 1992, which was submitted by President Boris Yelstin. Yegor Gaydar, the vice prime minister of the Russian Cabinet, delivered a report on this issue.

Here is our parliamentary correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy with details:

[Ruvinskiy] It is true that issues relating to the budget are being discussed now here at the Russian Supreme Soviet in Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin is present at this session, but, as we have just heard, he gave Yegor Timurovich Gaydar, the deputy chairman of the Russian Government, an opportunity to deliver a report on the budget message.

He presented deputies with a budget that provoked a rather stormy reaction here. First, Gaydar himself admitted straight away that it had been extremely difficult to draw up this budget in the present conditions of financial instability. The matter is that no steady and stable prices have been formed yet, and enterprises can only speak about their pricing intentions for the produce.

Incidentally, if one proceeds from these pricing intentions, then the pace of inflation for the first quarter, according to Gaydar, should reach 1,000-1,200 percent. Naturally, the population cannot cope with such inflation. The draft submitted by the government proposes 400 percent as the pace of inflation for the first quarter, which it believes is quite acceptable.

The main idea of the budget is to eliminate completely the budget deficit already in the first quarter. The present work in the parliament and prior work in committees and commissions shows that it hardly will be possible to achieve this.

Afterwards Gaydar Pochinok, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Commission for Budget and Finances, delivered a report. He said that, in the course of discussions, committees and commissions proposed various additional

allocations to the sum of 27.6 billion rubles [R] for tackling various necessary problems.

Meanwhile, a decision was submitted to the Supreme Soviet of Russia today for its examination. It proposes to reduce significantly taxes on foodstuffs produced at public catering enterprises, above all in workers' cafeterias, hospitals, schools, and higher educational establishments. Naturally, this also will reduce revenues for the budget. The situation is very complicated.

Proceeding from this and being guided by the deputies' opinions, Pochinok proposed not to approve the Russian Federation's budget for the first quarter as such, but only to give the government permission to use funds in the first quarter after agreeing to the figures which were submitted by the government and proceeding from the fact that in the very near future—already in February—serious alterations will have to be introduced to them; and, at the same time, to start preparing the entire budget for 1992. Naturally, in any state a budget should be adopted before a financial year starts, but, unfortunately, we did not manage to do it.

Now, after both reports were heard, the speakers answered questions from the people's deputies. A discussion will begin following the break, which was announced at the session.

Now to some of the questions that the deputies asked Gaydar. I believe that they may be of interest to our radio listeners.

There was a question of what will happen to the population's investments at our savings banks in the near future and whether the indexation of these investments will be carried out. Gaydar answered that so far indexation is not envisaged. If it is carried out now, it will be a detriment to the financial system and another increase in the monetary mass of the population. But, the government is ready to come back to the question of indexing investments after the first quarter—after its final results are drawn up—and it becomes clear what is happening to the finances of the Russian Federation.

That is how the discussion is progressing. I can give some figures for the allocations which have been made in accordance with the proposed draft. For example, in the first quarter R5.4 billion is allocated for defense. Incidentally, for the upkeep of the Army and Navy, that is, for paying various allowances, it has been proposed to allocate a sum five times greater than that to pay for armaments, military equipment, and property. This is the first time that such figures have been incorporated in the Russian budget. Incidentally, this is the first time that, when approving the Russian Federation's yearly budget, deputies have been presented with a detailed analysis of all the budget's points on defense. Now they can make various comparisons.

[Announcer] Aleksandr, we are exceeding the time allocated.

[Ruvinskiy] Well, then I will not dwell in detail on various points of the budget. I believe that you will have an opportunity to report this to radio listeners. Work continues here, and the discussion is very pointed.

First Quarter Figures Detailed

OW2401141092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet began on Friday [24 January] to discuss President Yeltsin's budget message and the government suggested draft budget for the first quarter of 1992. The draft envisages that budget revenues will total 420.5 bln [billion] rbl [rubles], including 111.2 bln collected through VAT [value-added tax], 7.4 bln through excises, and 228 bln as foreign trade revenues.

Profit tax will be established at 17 percent.

Under the draft, 20.9 bln rbl will be spent between January and April on the national economic development, 22.4 bln on social programs, 54.4 bln on defense, 4.4 bln on the maintenance of government and judicial bodies, and 219.6 bln on foreign economic activities.

Total budget expenditure is not defined in the draft.

Deputies Critical

LD2401151892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The main difficulties in the reform of the economy which has begun should emerge in the next three months was discussed today at the session of Russia's parliament. Yeltsin admitted: Our economy does not have firm ground under its feet yet; the reform of the economy has not become irreversible.

Feedback on the market economy has indeed not started working through yet. When will stability set in, and first and foremost financial stability? Obviously when the budget does not have a deficit, and also, as many think, when there appears a team of like-minded thinkers working for the good of Russia.

Today the government was once again subjected to criticism by parliament which discussed, only at the end of November, the question of the budget for the first quarter of this year. State expenditure, to give the government its due, has been squeezed to the utmost. State investments come to R [rubles] 33 billion.

The main items in the budget bringing in income are as follows:
foreign economic activity: R228 billion.
Value-added tax and shares: R160 billion.
Resources to set up a social insurance fund and a pension fund:

approximately R145 billion. [screen caption shows R145.7 billion].

The main expenditure items in the budget are social needs, health care and education: R226.5 billion; and military expenditure: approximately R50.5 billion [for military expenditure caption shows R50.4 billion].

Incidentally, about R6 billion have been granted by a parliament decision for culture. This is only one eighth of the resources requested.

However, all of these estimates can to a great extent be considered provisional. At the moment it is not possible to forecast the movement of inflation.

At the same time Russia's Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar thinks that reform is proceeding in accordance with plans. He adds that the main threat to economic stability in the near future is irregularities in supplies of coal and metal to industrial enterprises and a possible social upheaval. Yegor Gaydar said this in an interview to the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper.

Head of Commission Expounds

OW2401150892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1352 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Aleksandr Pochinok, head of the Budget Commission of the Russian Supreme Soviet, said on Friday [24 January] that the parliamentary committees and commissions suggested allowing the government to spend up to 519.8 bln [billion] rbl [rubles] in the first quarter of the year. He noted that the low quality and level of the government-prepared documents making up the presidential budget message ruled out their adoption as the republic's budget.

Mr. Pochinok said the major difference between the parliament and government consisted in the appraisal of inflation which the government tended to understate.

He described the attempt to draft a deficit-free budget as an empty project threatening to undermine political stability in Russia. Efforts to shift expenditures from the federal to the local budgets might lead to the development of "regionalist" practices in the republic, Pochinok warned.

He called for the early conclusion of treaties with other ex-Soviet republics to thwart their likely "ruble intervention" and enable the government to pursue a single monetary policy within Russia's borders.

Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar urged parliament not to cancel the newly established value-added tax—a move that he said might "take the finance system to pieces." He announced that the real budget deficit envisaged by the government for the first quarter of 1992 would be at 1% of the GNP.

The vice-premier refuted the charge that the 38 bln rbl slated in the draft budget for the development of Russia's agriculture was too small a sum. With regard to cuts in capital construction allocations, Gaydar said that they would be effected through curtailing defense programs, not through reducing the scale of housing construction.

He said the government's failure to order the indexing of people's investments in savings banks as a direct consequence of the difficult economic situation.

Debate Reveals Plight of Military

PM2701160192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Captain Second Class O. Odnokolenko: "Little Money Has Been Allocated for the Upkeep of the Army but the Russian Government Has No More and There Is Little Likelihood That There Will Be"]

[Text] I shall venture to make a tactless comparison: Our impoverished Russia has become ever so slightly more like wealthy America in the sense that our president, too, has introduced the practice of addressing a budget message to parliament. On 24 January there was a joint session of the chambers devoted to a discussion of the president's message. A report was delivered by Ye. Gaydar, representative of the president of the Russian Federation and deputy chairman of the government. The co-report was delivered by A. Pochinok, chairman of the Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices. They might both simply have drowned in questions from the hall had it not been for R. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, who, it seemed to me, remarked with easy irony that there is nothing left to ask questions about...

Nevertheless, A. Pochinok noted that the government may be allowed to spend appropriations without the budget having been ratified. As for the military budget, in accordance with the policy it is financed at "minimum" level. The point was made that few resources have been allocated for the army's upkeep but the government simply has no more. In particular, there are no resources to finance housing construction for servicemen and border troops outside Russia and those border units protecting non-Russian external borders will not be financed either. It may be said with complete confidence right now that the army has not only been broken up politically but economically, too. There is nothing to argue about, the empty treasury has the final say.

The speech by V. Vitebskiy, representing the Presidium Commission for Defense Questions and the Financing of the Military Industrial Complex, can be described as restrained only on the surface. In his view, the proposed draft budget is aimed at the complete elimination of the military-industrial complex, not just its reduction, as has been stated. The "wholesale" reduction of appropriations for research and development threatens to produce 500,000 unemployed as early as the first quarter of this year affecting those "bright minds" and "golden hands"

which "forged" the combat might of the army and navy during the Soviet era. There is also great doubt about the 8 billion [currency unspecified] in military budget support from the Commonwealth of Independent States which Russia is supposed to receive for having shouldered the main burden of the army's upkeep.

Lieutenant General V. Vorobyev, chief of the Armed Forces Central Financial Directorate, who spoke during the debates, thanked the government for its concern and stressed this time the military will not take a single kopek more than they need from the people but asked for indexation to be investigated because prices are rising and a soldier's greatcoat, which used to cost 51 rubles [R] is now more than an officer can afford—suppliers are asking R2,000 or more. The general also asked for the "restoration of justice"—in his opinion, the commander of a tank platoon cannot even make as much as a typist working for the law enforcement agencies.

Law Adopted on Kray, Oblast Administration

LD2601140192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] On 24 January, the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a law on the kray and oblast soviet of people's deputies and the kray and oblast administration. The document sets out the principles for the demarcation of the jurisdiction and administration of the soviets, and their participation in the activities of higher bodies of state power and the governing of Russia.

After the law had been adopted, a short break was declared in the work of the Supreme Soviet. The session will resume on 3 February. Separate sessions of the Russian Supreme Soviet chambers will be held on 5 February, and the parliamentarians will assemble for joint sessions on 6 and 7 February.

Intelligence Community Funds Frozen

LD2601094792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The 20 million hard currency rubles deposited by the intelligence-gathering community in the USSR's Bank for Foreign Economic Relations have now been frozen. Once a decision has been made to cut the foreign personnel of external special services by 50 percent, it will not merely be impossible to pay the wages, but it will also be impossible to get the people out. This was reported by Igor Nikulin, member of the parliamentary committee on the issues of legality, law, order, and combating crime, at a session of the Supreme Soviet of Russia.

Support for Armenia During Tension Debated

LD2601191392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The frontal assault on Nagorno-Karabakh may have halted, but attacks on individual Armenian villages continue. They are being fought off at great cost. The situation has been made more acute in recent days by the active use on the Azerbaijani side of (?hail) rocket missiles [reaktivnyy snaryad-grad] Western delegations who have visited Karabakh, in particular Lady Cox, believe that the mass use of this weapon means that Stepanakert and Shaumanovsk are threatened with total annihilation.

This situation explains the sharp debate in the Russian parliament which resulted in the treaty of friendship and cooperation with Armenia not being ratified. Many deputies voiced fears that the treaty's articles on mutual aid, including military aid, might aggravate relations with Azerbaijan. Representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry who drafted the document have noted that it is not directed against any third country and that there is a special stipulation to that effect. Moreover, a similar treaty with Azerbaijan is in preparation. Statements by a number of deputies echoed historical memories of the times when the invincible Russian soldier protected Armenia from bellicose and covetous neighbors. Still, the treaty has been postponed.

In the village of Karachinar, another person has been killed and 40 houses have been destroyed. [video shows mountainous terrain; brief clip coinciding with mention of hail rocket missiles of three vehicle-mounted batteries launching missiles, followed by close-up of rear of rocket launcher or artillery piece; damaged buildings; helicopter on ground; interior of damaged buildings]

Commodity Exchange Activity To Be Discussed

PM2801092692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Irina Demchenko: "Commodity Exchanges Want a Law"]

[Text] Early next week hearings on problems of the organization of commodity exchange activity are planned in the Russian parliament. The need for this measure emerged in the course of the discussion, by both chambers, of the draft law "On Commodity Exchanges and Exchange Trade."

In the classical sense, a commodity exchange is nothing more than a place organized in a certain way for wholesale trade, where trading intermediaries come together to conclude deals publicly and openly. You hardly need a great many of these places, especially given the present state of our commodity market. Nonetheless, in the Russian Federation alone there are already some 200 commodity exchanges in operation and several hundred more institutions who call themselves that, though they are not officially registered.

One reason for the "exchange fever" in our country is the lack of any normative base. Today any broker's office, trading house, or firm engaged in mediation activity

boldly calls itself a commodity exchange, often without having much idea what that means. Hence the huge number of scandals, some of them highly publicized, and the many bizarre outbursts and populist utterances compromising the exchange movement as such. The result is the widespread delusion that high prices for food products and consumer goods are "whipped up" by the commodity exchanges.

In fact neither sausage, nor sour cream, nor men's shirts are exchange commodities, and in the civilized world they are not offered at auction. According to Yu. Milyukov, cochairman of the Russian Commodity Exchange Union, their structures are very much committed to sorting the wheat from the chaff, and for about a year now they have been asking for a law to be adopted in relation to them.

It is interesting that this draft law, which was modeled on the world's best legislative acts, nonetheless reflects some of our "own-brand" prejudices against trading and purchasing activity as such. At any event, the commodity exchanges are banned from participating in the acquisition of securities, except for state securities, and commercially active structures such as banks, investment companies, and insurance funds are excluded from founding commodity exchanges. Of course, it will be easy to get round these bans if you offer the appropriate recompense to the appropriate officials.

Resolution Signed on Cash Supply Normalization

PM2801110492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

["Resolution of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium on Urgent Measures To Normalize the Cash Supply in the Russian Federation," signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov and dated 13 January 1992]

[Text] With a view to normalizing the cash supply in the Russian Federation and preventing interruptions in the issuing of cash for the payment of wages, pensions, grants, and other monetary payments to the population, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves:

1. The Central Bank of the Russian Federation is to formulate a procedure for the conduct of cash operations in the republic's economy and to submit it for examination by the Soviet of the Republic Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices by 15 February 1992.

2. It is laid down that until such time as the procedure for the conduct of cash operations is approved, enterprises, organizations, and institutions, irrespective of their legal and organizational form:
—are obliged to keep their monetary funds in banking institutions;
—must settle accounts relating to their commitments with other enterprises on a noncash basis through banking institutions;
—may hold cash in their cash office up to the limits of the quota allowed by banking institutions by agreement with the enterprise leaders;
—are obliged to surrender to the bank all cash in excess of the set quotas for the balance of cash held in the cash office according to the procedure and time scale agreed with the banking institution;
—are entitled to keep in their cash offices cash in excess of the set quotas only for labor remuneration and the payment of social insurance allowances, grants, and pensions and only for a period not in excess of three working days, including the day on which the money is received at the banking institution.

3. It is laid down that until such time as the procedure for the conduct of cash operations is approved, enterprises, organizations, and institutions which take in money continually and pay it out in labor remuneration and for other purposes (payment of pensions, purchase of agricultural produce, buying of packaging and goods from the population) are not entitled to hold cash in their cash offices pending the payment dates.

4. Banking institutions are to systematically monitor the observance by enterprises, organizations, and institutions of the requirements of the present resolution, and in the event of breaches being detected, take prompt steps to eliminate them.

5. The Central Bank of the Russian Federation:
—is to prepare for the issue of bank notes with a value of 1,000 rubles;
—is to prepare proposals for improving the breakdown of denominations in the money supply in circulation;
—is to keep the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet up to date on the satisfaction of the cash requirements of the economy and population of the republic.

6. The Russian Federation Ministry of Justice is to prepare proposals by 15 February 1992 on establishing the accountability of officials for noncompliance with Points 2-4 of the present resolution.

[Signed] Chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet,
R.I. Khasbulatov. Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 13 January 1992.

Resolution Adopted on Procurator's Office

LD2801165592 Moscow Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Henceforth, bodies of the Military Procurator's Office operating on the territory of the Russian Federation and also on the territory of the Western, Northern, and Northwestern Groups of Forces will be subordinated to the procurator general of Russia. This resolution was adopted by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. The decision will make it possible to ensure a uniform application of laws in the Armed Forces.

Khasbulatov Attack on Government Observed

924C0414A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jan 92 p 1

[Article by Sergey Parkhomenko: "Ruslan Khasbulatov Attacks the Government. The Government Remains Calm: A New Cycle of Confrontation Between the Executive and Legislative Authorities, This Time at the Level of Russia"]

[Text] We may call the mood in which the Supreme Soviet of Russia resumed its proceedings after a short Christmas recess highly strung. If deputies who left on 28 December for their election districts indeed had the need to "become immersed in the mood of the populace living through economic reform" then by all signs they succeeded.

The population itself could get an adequate idea of the atmosphere prevailing in the White House this Monday, 13 January, by following, through the evening TV broadcasts of "Novosti" and "Vesti," an attack which Chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov mounted in an extremely aggressive manner. As early as in the morning, during a meeting with a group of Italian senators, he made a statement designed to attract the attention of a small group of journalists who were present rather than a response from the foreign colleagues.

The thrust of the statement may be reduced to just two demands by the head of the parliament (the government "which is not just unsuccessful but also unqualified" should get out; the president should deny responsibility for the operations of the cabinet), and one threat, which was worded very transparently, though obliquely: In the event of failure to comply, the Supreme Soviet will assume the initiative.

As a meeting of the Supreme Soviet Presidium being held on the same day went on, it became clear just what the nature of this initiative might be. Khasbulatov opened the meeting with a short report on his visit to Ryazan Oblast and an admission that "the practice of implementing this reform" did not contradict his darkest premonitions, though "deep down, in my heart I wanted this to happen."

"Of course, it is not liberalization that is at issue but rather the price increase, and an absolutely unmonitored, chaotic, uncontrolled, and unregulated increase..." "Absolutely unreasonable processes that are completely isolated from the realities of economic and everyday life, which you see locally, make one wonder..." "When you see how the people perceive this, a joyless attitude toward the policy of the government develops..." "We have already put a noose around the necks of the producers of goods..." These were the chairman's comments, which were extensively supported by his personal observations of life in the provinces.

As far as conclusions drawn from these comments were concerned, they were in the nature of straightforward directives to the chairmen of parliamentary committees and commissions. The main directive, "to devise an immediate reduction of taxes throughout the sector," was accompanied by a resolute declaration: "You and I are no longer going to look to what the president and the government will be doing..."

Let us acknowledge that in quite a few cases Ruslan Khasbulatov is right as far as the merits of the case is concerned. Nonetheless, a procedure which he administers to virtually all who speak from the podium or at the microphone is colloquially referred to as a dressing down. It is easy to find a pretext on any occasion: Aleksandr Pochinok, who presented a draft resolution on putting 1,000 ruble bills in circulation, was criticized for the excessive "loquacity" of his colleagues on the committee ("What kind of bankers do you have over there?!"). Aleksandr Shokhin, who introduced a bill "On Medical Insurance," got in hot water for the inadequate productivity of his colleagues in the government ("Which one of you over there is the theorist behind all of these ukases?!"). Lev Ponomarev, who was summing up the proceedings of the Commission for Investigating the Causes and Circumstances of the Coup d'Etat, was struck dumb by impromptu evaluations of the report he submitted ("Pardon me, all of this is ridiculous. It is a farce... This background material of yours is not worth a tinker's cuss... You should have come to see me once, I would have given you pointers!") This happens with anyone and everyone.

Few have succeeded in keeping their composure. Perhaps, the government leaders who were in attendance distinguished themselves by remaining the coolest. Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar uttered the customary incantations: "Everything is proceeding naturally, normally, the way it was expected to. The most terrible thing we may do now is begin to panic and start taking popular and 'easy' corrective actions." The wording voiced by him once ("the government has no intention of resigning") was repeated at least three times during this evening. Sergey Shakhray did not let his appearance in the Novosti TV studio of Channel 1 go by without recalling the exclusive righ. to form and replace the government which the Russian Congress of People's Deputies delegated to the president of the republic along with other emergency powers codified in the Constitution.

Apparently, support from the president still appears to the government to be an adequate guarantee of the stability of its own position. To be sure, it is paradoxical that, as we recall, the president initially extended his patronage to the cabinet, fearing "the wrath of uncontrollable popular masses," whereas, on the contrary, defense was needed against the parliament, whose patience has run out much sooner.

As far as Boris Yeltsin himself is concerned, by all signs he intends to remain silent until 16 January, as is his style. It is expected that the first plenary meeting of the parliamentary session will begin with his report on the socioeconomic and political situation in the country. We will see whether a trip to the provinces has driven the

president to resolve to start a new life come Monday, 13 January, just as the leadership of the Supreme Soviet began on Monday by withholding confidence from the government.

Regional Affairs

Further on Khasbulatov's Visit to Yakutia

PM2801151692 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Correspondent Nikolay Belyy report: "Polar Cold and Warmth of Hope"]

[Text] R. Khasbulatov's tour of Yakutia continues. It began with a visit to the regions of the "southern shores" of the Arctic Ocean.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, began his business trip to the region of polar cold when the January frosts were at their sharpest—and by Yakut standards at that. The purpose of the visit, which is taking place at the invitation of Mikhail Nikolayev, president of Yakutia, is to get to know the northern republic, the life of the peoples who inhabit it, and the problems of development in this large region of Russia. The visit to Yakutia by the head of parliament and the Russian Government officials who flew in with him began early in the morning with the landing of a special direct flight from Moscow at the airport of the Arctic city of Udachnyy. "It is not as cold here as they warned us," the guest began to joke as soon as he had stepped off the ramp of the aircraft onto the land where the diamond miners live and work. Soon, however, Ruslan Imranovich was adjusting his impressions and letting down the earflaps on his fur hat. Following the packed schedule for his tour, on the first day of the visit he started work before daybreak, barely noticing the polar twilight, and finished late in the evening. He visited a mining enrichment factory where diamond ore is refined, visited the open quarries, found time to travel by helicopter a couple of hundred versts into the forest tundra, and, after visiting a reindeer farm and familiarizing himself with the life and living conditions of the indigenous population, who live, as they themselves say, "on the southern shores of the Arctic Ocean," stopped over in the city of Mirnyy, and in the evening, once again in the twilight, arrived in Yakutsk.

Ruslan Khasbulatov and his "team," as well as Yakut President Mikhail Nikolayev, who is accompanying the guests, were greeted all along their route by Russians and Yakuts, Ukrainians and Evenks, and representatives of other nationalities who inhabit the industrial regions of the "diamond republic." They were greeted with hope, because the head of parliament does not often fly to the remote Arctic regions and a great many acute and urgent problems have accumulated, problems requiring the involvement of the highest legislative and executive organs of Russia and its component Yakutia. A particularly large number of problems were raised at the meeting at Mirnyy City Soviet. The large auditorium was filled to overflowing with inhabitants, deputies, and leaders of enterprises in the city, whose emergence was a weighty sign of Russia's new status as a diamond-producing republic, as well as representatives of neighboring rural districts. There were plenty of questions. But the main discussion was of the problems of the development of the north and ways of overcoming the economic and social legacy of the past, which gave rise to virtually all the present troubles. How to use the strength and authority of Russia's legislative authority to build a new and truly free federation taking into account the interests of all nations and autonomous formations, and how to decide in a practical way and without delay the whole range of measures relating to the social protection of those who inhabit this distant and rich region in the conditions of market reforms.

Khasbulatov's tour of Yakutia goes on. He is expected to speak at a session of the Yakut-Sakha Republic Supreme Soviet, where urgent questions of financial relations between Russia and the "diamond republic" are expected to be raised.

Returns to Moscow

LD2801122292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Today Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, is completing his trip to Yakutia. Our correspondent Gennadiy Yermakov reports.

[Yermakov] The Russian Supreme Soviet chairman began his working day today by directly participating in a session of the Supreme Soviet of the Yakut Republic. In his 30-minute account, as I would call his speech, he shared his impressions of the trip. Ruslan Imranovich was astounded by the extremely low standard of living, not only of the republic's agricultural workers, but also of the diamond extracting industry. Then, for a whole hour, he responded to deputies' questions. As expected, the head of the representative power of Russia was asked questions regarding the state structure of the federation as set out in the draft constitution. The substitution in it of the right of nations to self-determination, freedom, and territory could result in an explosion for Russia, splitting it up into smaller states. The second matter which, according to deputies, has seriously infringed the rights of the sovereign republics is the Russian Supreme Soviet decision on the delimitation of ownership. In actual fact, Yakutia is once again becoming a raw material appendage, now no longer of the Union but of Russia.

There was also a question about the juridical status of the small ethnic groups of Russia which was not included in the draft constitution of the Russian Federation in spite of its democratic nature. All these questions, in addition to economic ones, now make up the basis of the life of the Yakut Republic.

In the afternoon, Khasbulatov met with the chairmen of rayon and town soviets of people's deputies. He then held a news conference for journalists of the republic's papers, television, and radio. In the evening, by local time, Ruslan Khasbulatov departed for Moscow. This is Gennadiy Yermakov, specially for the news service of Radio Rossii.

Kuzbass Miners Decide Not To Strike

PM2801160092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Miners"]

[Text] The working people of the Kuzbass came out against the earlier proposal of the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions to hold a two-hour warning strike on 27 January. The situation in the region remains complex. Economic ties have been disrupted, and light and food processing industry enterprises have stopped work. It is increasingly difficult for people to earn enough to live on. Therefore the trade union organizations are to establish workers' monitoring of prices.

Deputies View Situation

LD2701234992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0900 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] A congress of Kuzbass people's deputies of all levels today began work in Kemerovo. It is discussing the problems of the region's economy and the possibilities for improving the population's lives. Speaking at the congress, the chairman of the Kemerovo Oblast executive committee, Aman Tuleyev, reported that the area's main industry, the coal industry, has slumped back 20 years in terms of production volumes. A fall is visible in most other spheres of the economy. In the opinion of the administration's head, relying on distribution industries will not lead to normal development and economic transformations. Aman Tuleyev noted that there need to be as many private owners as possible among producers for the reforms to be succesful.

Bashkortostan Issues Ultimatum

LD2701125792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Bashkortostan's oil refiners have sent the Kuzbass miners an ultimatum, having stopped the dispatch of fuel oil to the Siberians. At the central heating and power plant where the fuel oil is being used, a critical situation has arisen because the state reserve was used up previously. A sharp fall in temperature is expected in the flats of the Kuznetsk basin miners. As a TASS correspondent has learned, the Bashkortostan refiners were forced to react in this way to the Kuzbass miners' failure to comply with their obligations. Representatives of the republic and the Kuzbass came to an agreement earlier on mutual deliveries of fuel. In January over 13,000 tonnes of fuel oil were dispatched from Ufa, but no coal was received in return.

Murmansk Sailors Plan 1 Feb Strike

LD2801113992 Moscow TASS in English 1013 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[Text] Murmansk January 28 TASS—Murmansk sailors will hold a one-day warning strike on February 1, unless the Russian Government agrees to meet their demands for higher wages, strike organisers said.

The government has consistently refused to discuss the sailors' economic demands, members of the strike committee of the Murmansk Shipping Company said. Moscow has not responded to proposals to hold talks with sailors, they added.

As of Tuesday [28 January], crews of more than 30 ships, including nuclear ice-breakers, working in the Arctic, have decided to join the strike.

Murmansk Opposes Nuclear Submarine Salvaging

PM2401141192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jan 92 Single Edition p 3

[Report by Captain Second Rank V. Gundarov: "Murmansk People Not Against 'Disarmament.' They Are Against Nuclear Submarines Being 'Disarmed' Under Their Windows"]

[Text] Murmansk—The Leninskiy Rayon residential area in the city of Murmansk climbs the incline of a hill to the gates of the Navy ship repair plant at which the written-off submarines of the Northern Fleet undergo salvaging. The salvaging of nuclear submarines involves "demolishing" the cover of the reactor, unloading the nuclear fuel and equipment, and stripping the reactor vessel.

Until recently the Murmansk people believed that they were living outside the radiation danger limit. Last year their confidence was shattered. The public has got Yevgeniy Komarov, chief of the Murmansk Oblast Administration, to suspend work on unloading nuclear fuel as of 5 January 1992.

By the start of the year, the plant had managed to "defuse" just three submarines of the more than 30 which, according to Rear Admiral Yevgeniy Rogachev, chief of the Northern Fleet technical directorate, will be waiting in line at the plant's dock by 1995.

The "moratorium" announced by the oblast administration will last through 5 May. During this period Ye. Komarov believes the Northern Fleet command should increase the safety of the unloading of nuclear fuel.

Specialists think otherwise.

"It is precisely for safety reasons that the fleet does not have the right to modify the technological process developed by the scientific research institutes," Vasiliy Miroshnichenko, the plant's chief engineer, voiced his opinion.

The plant's production plans have not yet been violated. Work on salvaging the Northern Fleet ships is continuing. The latest, fourth, nuclear submarine has now reached the plant.

It is notable that 30 years ago the construction of nuclear submarines developed according to a government program, with major capital investments. But now the fleet is salvaging the submarines itself, but without financial backup or the relevant technical base.

St. Petersburg Trade Unions Call Off Strike

OW2801224592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The Federation Council of St. Petersburg Independent Trade Unions called off a strike of the region's industrial enterprises, planned for January 29. This decision was taken in the course of negotiations between the unions and the government. The government promised to halve the added-value tax and to use sanctions against ballooning food prices. The trade unions reserve the right to announce a strike at 34 major industrial enterprises if the City Hall goes back on its pledges.

Yeltsin Decree on Komi's Economic Autonomy

LD2801163792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By correspondent Yevgeniy Kuznetsov from Syktyvkar, Komi]

[Text] On 28 January Yuriy Spiridonov, Supreme Soviet chairman of the Komi Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] [as heard], and Aleksandr Okatov, first deputy chairman of the republican Council of Ministers, gave a news conference to journalists from the central and local mass media.

The leaders of the former Russian autonomous region announced that Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on urgent measures to stabilize the economy and promote the development of the social sphere in Komi SSR, stressing that this legislative act by the federal authorities is the first stage on the road to full economic autonomy for the Komi Republic.

The Russian president's decree fleshes out with real content the declaration of the Komi SSR on sovereignty, Yuriy Spiridonov, chairman of the Komi parliament, said in answer to a question from the Radio Rossii news service. He also stressed that Boris Yeltsin's decree opens a road to the creation of a normal economic model of mutual relations of federal authorities with republics, krays, and oblasts of the north, which is predominately a raw materials base for all the branches of the economy of Russia and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. President Yeltsin's decree enshrines the right of the Komi Republic to its own property, including underground resources, on principles of parity with Russia.

The decree is based on the principle of long-term economic cooperation by Komi and the Russian Federation on mutually favorable and equitable conditions. It envisages a set of measures for the social rebirth of the Komi SSR so it can overcome the burdensome legacy of the camps economy. It is also important that now the surveying and extraction of all minerals—and in the territory of the republic there is oil, gas, coal, timber, gold, and bauxites—will be conducted only by permission of the Komi Government. The republic has also received the right to independently carry out foreign economic activity and set up its own foreign currency fund. The list of regions of the far north and localities on the same footing has been considerably expanded, which provides an opportunity for additional benefits for those who live and work in the Komi SSR.

New Moscow Regime To Promote Economic Reforms

OW2401142692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The new Moscow government has prepared a program of work for this year. As IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent learned at the Mayor's Office, the ministers attach priority significance to "expanding production and increasing the output of goods and services through the promotion of economic reforms accompanied by reliable social guarantees for the fully or partially disabled."

The government intends to rapidly privatize trade and service agencies, as well as small and medium-sized industrial facilities, transportation agencies, gas stations, and hotels. Housing will be transferred into private hands free of charge, with property tax fixed at a level corresponding to the average housing rent.

Moscow entrepreneurs will be offered a number of benefits: e.g., producers of consumer goods and services, as well as food-processing enterprises, will be spared the need to pay urban taxes.

Presentation of the program and the new Moscow government will take place in the Moscow Soviet building at 14:00 on Friday [24 January].

Moscow Oblast Instructions on Private Property

LD2601001692 Moscow Oblast Radio in Russian 0420 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] The government of Moscow Oblast has discussed the tasks resulting from the Russian president's recent instruction on the privatization of state property in Moscow Oblast and from the corresponding instruction of Moscow Oblast Soviet and the head of the oblast administration. These documents declare that Moscow Oblast controls all state property on the territory of Moscow Oblast except for that previously handed over to towns and rayons. The oblast and local authorities are soon to carry out major work on delimiting types of property, to determine what is subject to privatization, which establishments should be kept in the oblast, and which establishments should be federal property. Documents will be submitted for the approval of the Russian Government.

Within three weeks the heads of the local administration must submit proposals for the necessary changes in the status of property of social infrastructure establishments located on rayon and town territories and now belonging to federal departments and state enterprises. It is envisaged to maintain the present order of relations between enterprises and budgets at different levels in the course of the first quarter of the current year. Contracts concluded with former Union and Russian bodies by managers of state enterprises are valid until they are renewed.

With a view to making efficient use of the potential and maintaining the normal functioning of oblast organizations and industrial enterprises, including capacities being released as a result of the conversion of enterprises in defense sectors, the joint-stock company Ekonomicheskaya Deyatelnost is being set up.

Communists Lay Claim to Smolnyy Building

LD2801130692 Moscow TASS in English 1438 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By correspondent Mikhail Utiyanskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—The Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party has laid claim to the Smolnyy building, which housed the CPSU regional committee until August 1991. It wants the building, now occupied by St. Petersburg's authorities, to be cleared before March 1.

A corresponding telegramme was addressed to St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak by member of the party Central Committee Konstantin Fyodorov, concurrently deputy chairman of the St. Petersburg commercial port's trade union committee. Interviewed by TASS, Fyodorov said: "The city authorities are unable to administer St. Petersburg. They have turned its population into paupers. The Communists hope to improve the deplorable situation."

Fyodorov said that a recent plenary meeting of the Communist Party had adopted a "programme of actions". "The demand addressed to the mayor is the first stage in its realisation," he added.

Tula Factories To Sell Weapons Directly

LD2801190192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] On Monday [27 January] it was officially announced at a meeting at the offices of the Tula Oblast administration head that the Russian Government has permitted two Tula ordnance factories to sell their products directly to consumers. To a weapons factory this means, for example, 240,000 Kalashnikov rifles. Many months of effort by the people of Tula have ended in success.

But there are many more than two arms factories in Tula. The government's decision will make it possible to disperse the vast quantities of weapons that have piled up in the warehouses and improve the financial situation of weapons workers.

But it is clearly nowhere near enough to revive a network of defense-sector plants that are visibly declining. Incoming supplies have dwindled to zero. So have state orders for the end product. The state monopoly on production and sale of weapons in Tula was established by Peter the Great himself. He realized that he could not create a great empire otherwise. Now the monopoly has been shaken for the first time in 280 years.

Tomsk Questions Uranium Processing Contract

PM2801114592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, TASS roundup report under the general heading "In Brief"]

[Text] The Tomsk Oblast Soviet has called into question a contract between the Siberian Chemical Combine's administration and a number of foreign firms to process uranium products. Up till then the combine had already been processing foreign radioactive materials in its production areas. In the interim the oblast soviet had been turning a blind eye to this.

Tatarstan To Hold National Conference 1-2 Feb

OW2401223192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1849 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Tatarstan will hold a national conference on February 1 and 2. The conference will form a national congress of the republic.

The organizers have said that the delegates to the pan-Tatar congress would be nominated by labour staffs,

rallies at the place of residence and religious organizations. The original idea was that one delegate shall be nominated from 10,000 Tatars. However, under the latest decision a group of 30 people has the right to nominate a candidate.

The organizers told the news conference that the national congress would take part in the legal control of the status of the republic and people of Tatarstan, the Tatar language, education, culture and religion. In all other fields the national congress and its executive committee will issue recommendations.

The national congress will consist of 100 members. Seventy five will be elected at the national conference (50 from Tatarstan and 25 from other regions). Twenty five seats have been reserved for the people's deputies of the TSSR [Tatarstan Soviet Socialist Republic].

Tatar Democrats Wary of 'Power Strucutures'

OW2301220192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The Tatar chapter of the Russian Democratic Party called on the republican Supreme Soviet, government and president to ban the formation on the republican territory of unconstitutional power structures, says a statement of the Russian Democratic Party made in connection with the plans of the the party named Ittifak, the committee Sovereignty and other Tatar public organizations to hold in early February a congress (kurultai) and to form a Tatar national parliament (milli-medjlis). According to the press, the kurultai, the way its organizers see, may dissolve the Supreme Soviet and hand over power to the milli-medjlis.

The Tatar chapter of the party believes that the republic's public organizations have a right to claim power only through general elections. Any attempt to oust legitimate power structures or usurp part of their constitutional powers by self-styled organizations will be regarded as a coup d'etat.

Kabardino-Balkar Leader Decrees Gun Control

PM2701111992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 92 p 1

[By correspondent Anatoliy Grachev: "President Orders Weapons To Be Surrendered"]

[Text] Nalchik—V. Kokov, recently elected first president of Kabardino-Balkaria, issued a decree that met with great approval in the republic. It is entitled: "On Urgent Measures to Strengthen Law and Order in the Kabardino-Balkar SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]."

Until the middle of last November Kabardino-Balkaria was considered a fortunate republic: Interethnic conflicts had apparently passed it by, and the crime situation was not causing the same anxiety as in neighboring regions. But the Balkars proclaimed their own republic 17 November, and then the Kabardins followed their example and announced the reestablishment of their own. The tension was evident straight away: ethnic relations deteriorated, crime increased, and civilians started carrying weapons. So the president was forced to issue the aforementioned decree.

Is the population impressed? The decree says, in particular: New (municipal) militia structures are to be formed and staffed on a competitive basis, by contract; a guard, around battalion strength, is to be set up, and all other armed formations are to be prohibited. Firearms are to be registered within a month, illegal ones are to be surrendered, and any that are not reregistered are to be seized. There is to be an inventory of all commodity resources in the republic, and they must be allowed to enter the trade network and be sold under strict supervision. Actions aimed at kindling interethnic strife are to be stopped. The composition of the leadership of law enforcement services is to be examined, and leaders who fall short of present-day demands are to be replaced. The penalty for failing to implement the decree is a fine of 10,000 rubles or dismissal.

Well, ordinary people are longing to have law and order and are growing impatient. So perhaps presidential rule in Kabardino-Balkaria will be effective? One would sincerely like to wish the president success.

Irkutsk To Begin Food Rationing 1 Feb

LD2601155992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1604 GMT 25 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Rationing of essential foodstuffs will be introduced in the Irkutsk region. Beginning from February 1 head of the regional administration Yuriy Nozhikov issued a resolution providing for a ration allowance, starting from February 1, to each resident in the region, of 300g [grams] of vegetable oil and 500g of meal per quarter, 2 bottles of vodka, 5 packs of cigarettes, 250g of margarine, 300g of pasta articles per month.

An employee of the regional administration staff informed that a bread and milk rationing system is currently under preparation.

Bashkiria's First Independent Radio Set Up

LD2701131392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Jan 92

[By correspondent Andrey Krivoshey from Ufa]

[Text] It would appear that the still persisting monopoly by state structures over the news media is gradually beginning to yield ground. For the first time, independent and alternative newspapers and magazines have rushed in to try and win Bashkiria's information market.

Now a new radio station has joined them. It's called Shark [previous word in English], from the English word shark. The name seems particularly appropriate, because, if we are to believe station director Anatoliy Davydov, the plans of the pioneers of independent broadcasting are indeed shark-like.

For the time being, listeners are being asked to content themselves with good modern and classical music. In the future, and this will be quite soon, news bulletins based on material from leading domestic and foreign news media will begin to go out. There will also be advertising, programs for businessmen, and live location reports. Most of all, listeners should be attracted by programs of the world-famous Voice of America prepared under contract specially for a Russian audience. Contacts with the Americans are being set up and promise to be very fruitful.

By the way, the new station will also carry programs of the Contact Plus youth association, the brainchild of the Bashkirian Union of Democratic Youth and the republican Physical Culture Association. Funds for the radio station—substantial ones, at that—have been allocated by the eponymous commercial news company Shark, which clearly foresees that breaking into the news market is a promising and profitable business, so much so that it is already working on the creation of its own news telegraph agency, business newspaper, and commercial television channel.

I will not presume to judge whether this, the republic's new and so far only news structure, will become an alternative to state television and radio. But I know for a fact that the latter now has a fairly powerful and strong competitor.

Russian Germans View Autonomy Issue

LD2601052692 Moscow TASS in English 1702 GMT 24 Jan 92

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—"We have decided not to regard President Yeltsin's statement in Saratov as his last say on the problem of Russian Germans," Henrich Grout, chairman of the board of the Inter-State Council for the Rehabilitation of Germans on the Territory of the Former USSR, told TASS.

As earlier reported, President Yeltsin said in Saratov that German autonomy could be established on the territory of an old military testing ground and in populated localities, where Germans account for not less than 90 per cent of the population.

Summing up the results of the first meeting of the Inter-State Council's board, held on January 22-23, Grout said that the supreme representative body of Russian Germans had asked the leaderships of Russia and Germany to do everything necessary to neutralise and optimise the situation before March 28.

According to Grout, Russian Germans do not regard the restoration of their statehood as a local problem, concerning only their own nation. This is a "sensitive indicator of democracy and efficiency of any leadership", he said. Previously it concerned the federal leadership, but now it is a problem that may doom the Russian leadership to bankruptcy in inter-ethnical relations.

Grout expressed the view that the FRG Government, representatives from which also took part in the board meeting, expresses "too much optimism about the possibilities for restoring the statehood of Russian Germans on the Volga".

"The faith of this nation in its national future within this country has been greatly undermined by Yeltsin's pronouncements. This is confirmed by reports from the grassroots. Only a few of our movement's activists, numbering about 120,000, would go to the Volga, that is to their future republic, if a corresponding decree was issued.

Grout also said that the board meeting adopted an appeal to the president and parliament of Russia, to public opinion of Germany, saying that the problem was deadlocked and calling for solidarity and mutual understanding in the effort to solve it.

The second congress of Russian Germans is scheduled for March 20. It will be attended by the same delegates that were elected to the first congress. A day of national solidarity of Russian Germans is to be held in all the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States on March 28.

International Affairs

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives on Working Visit

LD2801231292 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, minister of petroleum in Iran, arrived today on a working visit to the capital of the Ukraine. It is already the second visit recently by representatives of the government (?forces) from this country to Kiev. Aqazadeh-Kho'i will hold negotations on possibile deliveries of oil from Iran to the Ukraine. So far we have been receiving it wholly from the Russian Federation. The latter, using the monopoly right, intends to substantially raise the price on its oil starting from 1 February. It is this step that forces the Ukrainian Government to look for more profitable partners, not only in the countries of the Near and the Middle East but also within the CIS. Negotiations with Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasanov, who arrived in Kiev today, could include this subject.

World Bank Experts Arrive, Hold Talks

LD2801000192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The first group of experts of the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development is now in Kiev. The members of the group were invited to Ukraine by President Leonid Kravchuk.

The head of the delegation is one of the bank's leading experts on privatization, (?Enrico Rueda Sabater). The delegation visited the state committee of Ukraine for the facilitation of business and small enterprises. It's members discussed with Ukrainian officials and businessmen the prospects for the international financial aid for Ukrainian private businessmen.

The representatives of the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development expressed confidence that the Ukraine, with its powerful economy and a new economic policy will be able to claim full membership in that international financial institution.

Foreign Policy Discussed During Press Briefing

LD2501223992 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpts] A regular briefing for representatives of the mass media of the Ukraine and foreign states accredited in Kiev took place yesterday at the press center of the Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Correspondent Oleksandr Dednik reports:

[Begin recording] [Dednik] Several subjects were reviewed at this briefing. Journalists were told about the foreign policy activities of the Foreign Ministry of our young state. [passage omitted] Volodymyr Chornyy, head of the ministry's information department, addressed those present:

[Chornyy] Active, intense, and effective talks are under way both at the level of the leaders of our state—the government—and at the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Practically every day Minister Anatoliy Maksymovych Zlenko receives a delegation from abroad. Experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and specialists from other branches join in. To date, 89 states have recognized us. A protocol will be signed establishing diplomatic relations with Iran, which will be the 19th state to officially form diplomatic relations with the Ukraine. [passage omitted]

[Dednik] A few days ago a delegation from the United States headed by U.S. Undersecretary of State Reginald Bartholomew was in Kiev. During conversations a broad range of questions on disarmament was reviewed; first and foremost there were questions on the Ukraine's fulfillment of obligations vis a vis international treaties on disarmament. The talks were businesslike and constructive. Valeriy Kuchynskyy, adviser to the Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a participant in the meeting with the U.S. side, spoke at the briefing:

[Kuchynskyy] From the viewpoint of our American colleagues, the Ukraine's fulfillment of obligations that lie on the Ukraine under the treaty on strategic offensive weapons is very important. With our U.S. colleagues we discussed the question of the ratification or adoption by the Ukraine's parliament of some kind of juridical legislative act that is equal to ratification and under the conditions of which we would take upon ourselves the obligation to fulfill the treaty. [passage omitted] The Ukraine's participation in the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces in Europe is a very important issue, as is our ratification of the Paris treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe. Our talks with the U.S. delegation passed very harmoniously.

[Dednik] Journalists were told about ensuing visits of government delegations from Vietnam, France, Egypt, Portugal, Canada, and Italy. They should all take place by the end of this month. [end recording]

National Affairs

Kravchuk Seeks More Power, Reviews CIS Ties

OW2901021292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk has urged the parliament to grant him additional powers. Speaking at a session of the republican parliament Tuesday [28 January] he explained that he must form a Cabinet by himself and the parliaaent must approve only leaders of the main ministries, i.e. of defense, of interior, etc. Kravchuk asked to give him the right to reform and set up other ministries at his discretion.

A proposal was also made at the session to appoint presidential representatives in regions.

Leonid Kravchuk categorically denied accusations that Ukraine violates the agreements and its commitments before other Commonwealth states. He stated that these agreements are not observed by others. "Ukraine does not infringe upon the interests of other countries and sees the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] as partners for mutually advantageous cooperation", he stressed. In his opinion, the record of cooperation within the Commonwealth shows that the CIS has good prospects, but its future will depend only on real implementation of the agreements. "If the Commonwealth returns to the imperial way, it will be doomed to failure. Imperial unhealthy pretensions should be gone and all issues be resolved on the basis of agreements and talks," Kravchuk said.

He said that on January 16 in Moscow the Commonwealth leaders decided the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. However, in his words, "this decision is being implemented neither by the fleet's command, nor by other political forces seeking confrontation".

President Kravchuk stated that Ukraine is building its relations with Russia on the civilized basis of the documents signed by the two sides earlier. "We should rely on support of the democratic forces and position of Russian President Boris Yeltsin who says that Russia has no territorial claims to Ukraine," the Ukrainin leader pointed out.

Speaking about strengthening the economic cooperation with the Commonwealth states, particularly with Russia, Kravchuk warned that Ukrainian enterprises failing to fulfill their obligations would have to pay heavy fines.

Three Military District Commanders Replaced

PM2901093992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Tsikora report: "Ukraine Replaces Three Military District Commanders"]

[Text] Kiev—Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman I. Plyushch made an announcement at a news conference. He reported that Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk signed the relevant decrees 27 January.

The issue of the leadership of the military districts was discussed in detail at a Defense Council session a few days ago. The main argument in favor of making new appointments was not so much the refusal of the three generals in command to take the oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people as the changed political situation in the Ukraine. Having become an independent state, the Ukraine has the right to autonomously resolve all cadre questions "from above," including in the defense sphere. Especially since the commanders were "appointed to their posts by other states and presidents," as I. Plyushch noted.

Here are the names of the generals who will henceforth command three of the country's most powerful military districts, which come within the Commonwealth. Kiev District is now led by Lieutenant General V. Boriskin, hitherto first deputy commander and district chief of staff. He was the first top officer to take the oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people. Odessa Military District is now led by Lieutenant General V. Radetskiy, who was a tank army commander before this appointment. Lieutenant General V. Stepanov, who was an army commander, has been appointed commander of the Carpathian Military District.

No decisions were made on the Black Sea Fleet at the Defense Council. A joint commission of experts, who will prepare proposals on the controversial issues, is at work. But several facts that throw light on today's processes in the naval seamen's world have been made public. The ritual of the oath for new recruits has been repealed for the third time at naval training bases. Parents of young servicemen who have arrived in Sevastopol have accused the commanders of plotting and intrigue. There is no unity amongst the naval personnel either: Some are inclined to take the oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth of Independent States, and others to the Ukraine. The coast guard has already taken an oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people.

Another news item has come in from one of the bases—a Black Sea Fleet combat ship anchored at the Poti roadstead has raised the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag.

Kravchuk on Ties With Russia, Nuclear Issue

LD2801170192 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 28 Jan 92

[by TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyayev]

[Text] Rome January 28 TASS—"Russians and Ukrainians will never fight. We shall reach agreement on all problems", Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said in an interview with the Italian newspaper "LA REPUBBLICA."

"We do not wish to rupture relations with Russia. We have an accord with Russia and we do not want to weaken our ties," Kravchuk said. "But we shall not tolerate dictate, and Boris Yeltsin has assumed a balanced position on this score of late. When our relations stabilise, historical, people-to-people and cultural ties between our states will strengthen. Problems will remain, but we shall be resolving them in a peaceful way at a negotiating table".

Regrading the problem of the Crimea, Kravchuk said that there exists a legal basis, and calling it into question will lead to larger territorial problems. "There exists a treaty in which Russia and Ukraine declare that they have no territorial claims to each other. I do not think that there can be serious differences regarding frontiers between Russians and Ukrainians who have been living together for 350 years now."

Regarding the Black Sea Fleet, Kravchuk said that a Russian- Ukrainian commission working now will decide how it should be subdivided. It is necessary to consider how many naval ships Ukraine needs to protect its sea boundaries. There are other problems, he said. "We have decided to eliminate nuclear arms in the Black Sea by July 1. When nuclear weapons are removed who will be in possession of these ships?"

The Ukrainian president said that Yeltsin did not consult him when deciding that nuclear missiles deployed on Russian territory will no longer be targeted on American cities. No one of the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus can adopt on his own a decision to use nuclear weapons, no matter where they are stationed. But each state is pursuing its own policy. It is for the Russian Government to decide where missiles in Russia are targeted.

Kravchuk said that Ukraine will not participate in any military bloc, but intends to enter the Western economic and financial community since it needs new technology, market experience and some aid. He said he had already sent letters to the European Community. "We shall participate in it if we are admitted, while remaining within the Commonwealth of Independent States."

Asked about his attitude to Mikhail Gorbachev, the Ukrainian president said that objectively Gorbachev had done very much. "His name will go down in history," Kravchuk said.

Kravchuk Says Republic Honors CIS Treaties

LD2801200192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Problems of the Black Sea Fleet and the future of the Crimea were discussed again today. These topics were raised at the Ukraine Supreme Soviet. So first we will present the official position of this sovereign state and then a commentary by our correspondent who has just returned from Sevastopol.

[Correspondent V. Lyaskalo] President Kravchuk made a report during the discussion of the issue on urgent measures for strengthening executive power in the Ukraine. He asked the Supreme Soviet to expand the range of his powers, specifically, to give the president the right to personally appoint the chairmen of certain state committees and departments as well as representatives of presidential authority in localities.

The resignation of Fokin's government will not rescue us today, Kravchuk said; moreover, it will result in an even greater chaos. The president of the Ukraine paid great attention to the problems of mutual relations between CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member-states. This Commonwealth has not yet exhausted its potential, and in creating armed forces of its own the Ukraine does not deviate at all from all the accords and treaties signed either within the framework of the CIS or between republics.

Nevertheless, attempts are being made to present the Ukraine as a force destroying the Commonwealth, although we have not violated a single clause of laws or accords, Kravchuk said. Despite the mounting campaign for revising the Crimea's status, he said, we remember and welcome President Yeltsin's statement, which he reiterated more than once, that Russia has no territorial claims on the Ukraine.

Party Calls For Secession From Commonwealth

LD2501151192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Today the Democratic Party of Ukraine has issued an appeal in connection with the officers' conference in Moscow. The conference participants disregarded the fact that the member states of the Commonwealth are independent countries, reads the appeal.

The idea of a single country and single army reigned at the conference; the presidents of the independent states were dishonored, especially the President of Ukraine. Ukraine's membership in such a Commonwealth is fraught with danger to sovereignty and independence, reads the appeal issued by the Ukrainian Democratic Party. The Presidium of the National Council of the Democratic Party considers that the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine should denounce the Minsk agreement and declare Ukraine's secession from the Commonwealth.

Defense Minister Morozov on Future of Military

LD2501151592 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Report on interview with Ukrainian Defense Minister General Konstantin Morozov, Ukrainian defense minister, by correspondent Yevgeniy Kuzmin, date and place not given; Morozov speaking in Russian fading into English report by Kuzmin]

[Text] Former Soviet servicemen continue swearing allegiance to Ukraine. The process is both controversial and often painful but the defense minister here believes that it is a necessary step before the Ukraine has its own national Armed Forces. Here is Yevgeniy Kuzmin with more on that.

[Kuzmin] Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov said that the process of the troops of the former USSR swearing their allegiance to the people of Ukraine has almost been completed. All but a few units swore their allegiance and those few that are left will take (?the) oath later after the scheduled [words indistinct] (?next Monday).

There were no refusals to swear allegiance on political grounds but when people refused to do that just because they choose the other state's citizenship it's only natural.

We did not press them to swear allegiance to Ukraine and considered that decision to be the matter of their personal choice. The number of officers and men that have sworn it is (?220,000). As regards those who refused their share within the [word indistinct] of the three military districts that are located in Ukraine is different. It varies from five to 30 percent. But I can tell you, said minister Morozov, that many of the officers and men of different nationalities swore that loyalty oath to the people of Ukraine. Those who do not want to [words indistinct] are free to leave it. We have not thrown anyone away.

I also asked minister of defense if there are any particular points of controversy in the military sphere in relations with Russia or any other Republics of the Commonwealth.

There are no such points at the moment. The problems that were not resolved initially we managed to resolve in the second or third round of meetings [word indistinct] at a level of [word indistinct] experts and I'd like to stress the fact that there are no developments today that (?could) lead to the aggravation of the relations between Ukraine and Russia.

As regards the Black Sea (?Fleet) Konstantin Morozov said that the basic approach towards that problem has already been worked out. Ukraine did not claim any strategic part of the Black Sea Fleet. It is now entitled to taking into its national Armed Forces that part of the fleet that is sufficient for protection of its part of the Black Sea shore and that part of the Black Sea (?aquatorium) [as heard] that washes Ukrainian shore of the Black Sea. Strategic part of the Black Sea Fleet is being given the same statute that was given to the other part of strategic deterrent force of the Commonwealth of the Independent States deployed temporarily on Ukrainian soil.

General Morozov stressed also the fact that in general Ukraine is going to maintain only that amount of troops on its territory [word indistinct] for the guarantee for the defense of the country. During transitional period until the years of 1998/1999 we are going to cut 50 percent of the military forces deployed in our territory now but we will be doing it gradually, trying to resolve at the same time all social problems that affect badly the living standards of our officers and men today.

In February the parliament of Ukraine will set up the final figure for the number of the armed forces for this country, but I'd like to underline the fact that this final number will not, I'm sure, be considered as a [?intentional] threat of any kind neither by the neighbors of Ukraine nor by the other members of the international community, said Minister of Defense of Ukraine Colonel General [rank as heard] Konstantin Morozov.

Commentary Views Opposition to Armed Forces

LD2801202992 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Commentary by military observer Ivan Kuzmin on how the national armed forces of the Ukraine are being created]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ukrainian government officials and public organizations involved still claim hidden opposition to the whole process [of creating Ukraine armed forces] on the part of the ex-Soviet military commanders. Kiev Military District Commander General Viktor Chechevatov refused to swear allegiance to Ukraine after more than 90 percent of the headquarters staff did so. It made the Ukrainian military officers association turn directly to the president asking him to dismiss all military district, field army, and division commanders who refused to swear their loyalty oath to Ukraine. In general, more than 350,000 officers and men have sworn already their allegiance to Ukraine.

One should not be too optimistic looking at the situation around the Black Sea Fleet. Never mind that work of the groups of experts from Ukraine and Russia on the division of the fleet is quite far from being over. Controversial orders and decrees are coming from Moscow. On Saturday 25 January, early in the morning, Commander of the ex-Soviet navy, Admiral Chernavin, sent to the Black Sea Fleet headquarters the order to postpone the ceremony of the navy men swearing their allegiance to the Commonwealth of Independent States. Such order was given earlier by Marshal Shaposhnikov, who is temporarily performing the duties of the Commonwealth of Independent States strategic forces. Later today, Admiral Chernavin himself arrived to Sevastopol and held a ceremony. About 5,000 officers and men swore their allegiance to the Commonwealth.

I would not try to blow that fact out of proportion because Ukraine constitutes a part of the Commonwealth. But Admiral Chernavin's act ran contrary to what Ukrainian Defence Minister General Konstantin Morozov asked the navy commander in his letter to the Black Sea Fleet headquarters, which was to wait until the fair division of the Black Sea Fleet is over. These are the facts and if someone wants to know what is the reason for the tension around the Black Sea Fleet, there is no need to guess. The ex-Union military structures that outlived Union itself are making the last attempt to preserve their position and their role in the new (?circumstance). Can it be a success? Definitely not. But it is a big danger.

Council Seeks Stronger Ties With Krasnoyarsk

LD2501160292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1642 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] In response to the Krasnoyarsk authorities' refusal to accept for storage radioactive waste from Ukraine, the Ukrainian Council of Ministers expressed readiness to

maintain economic and cultural ties with Krasnoyarsk territory. Vyacheslav Novikov, chairman of the Krasnoyarsk Territorial Council, told PF [POSTFACTUM] on January 23 the letter by the Ukrainian Council of Ministers received on January 21 has been this republic's first proposal for cooperation since the end of 1991, when Ukraine shunned negotiations with the territorial administration on the supply of sugar, vegetable oil and other food products to Krasnoyarsk territory.

At that time, the Presidium of the Krasnoyarsk Territorial Council passed the decision not to accept for storage used nuclear fuel (unf) from Ukraine. The country's only storage facility of this kind is located in Krasnoyarsk-26 (one of the science-secret towns not marked at the map, situated near Krasnoyarsk). The decision went into effect on January 15, 1992. According to Novikov, the Presidium's decision has not yet been cancelled because the letter by the Ukrainian Council of Ministers is of a rather general nature. He thinks substantive talks are necessary to specify the terms for the storage of used nuclear fuel in Krasnoyarsk territory.

Novikov also said the integrated ore mining and chemical works in Krasnoyarsk received the permission from the Krasnoyarsk Territorial Council late in 1991 to hold talks with South Korean firms on the possibility of accepting for storage in Krasnoyarsk-26 used nuclear fuel from that country.

Valeriy Lebedev, director of the works, told PF about one million dollars are paid for the storage one ton of used nuclear fuel under international price rates whereas Ukraine paid one million roubles for the storage of one ton of used nuclear fuel to international storage facility at the plant.

Rumors went circulating in Krasnoyarsk on January 23 that a container with used nuclear fuel arrived in the city despite the authorities' protest. This information was broadcast in the territorial television program IKS. Anatoliy Romashov, deputy chief engineer at the works, denied this report. He said heads of the works were now forging contacts with the Ukrainian Council of Ministers. Together with representatives of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers they intend to hold talks on the terms for the storage of used nuclear fuel in Krasnoyarsk-26 shortly.

Commission Orders Prices Under State Control

LD2501151392 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] The governmental commission on the introduction of reusable coupons in circulation has analyzed the reasons of a sharp price rise for the basic food products and consumer goods which evoked dissatisfaction of the people. Concrete data provided by the state inspection of Ukraine testify to the fact that in many cases enterprises intentionally increase the cost of the product, taking advantage of their status of monopolies.

The governmental commission ordered that the prices for the products manufactured by the monopolies be taken under state control.

Impact of Coupons on Price Increases Viewed

PM2901093892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Viktor Filippov report under the rubric "Wages and Prices": "No Rubles in Your Pocket, But Coupons"]

[Text] The minimum wage in the Ukraine is set at 400 rubles [R], but in practice in January it was 200 coupons.

A wave of protests against high prices forced the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers to hastily adopt a resolution on regulating prices for basic types of dairy and meat products. Now a kilogram of butter, in the state trade network, costs an average of R24; sour cream is up to R6; boiled sausage R18 to R56 (depending on the variety); beef about R76; and pork less than R60. Prices have been reduced by means of budget subsidies. The attempt to start living strictly by market laws has not yet succeeded.

But do not be in too much of a hurry to envy Ukrainian prices. They are, of course, lower than, say, in Russia, but the purchasing power of the inhabitants of the Ukraine is still negligible. Fearing ruble expansionism from the "nearby foreign parts," the Ukrainian Government introduced parallel money from 10 January: ruble coupons, which the people promptly dubbed "kravchuchkas." But since the coupon supply was not sufficient to totally replace the ruble, they issued 200-400 "kravchuchkas" per head, and doubled the allowance only for the metalworkers and miners.

The intention was that this parallel money would crowd out the ruble only in the sphere of state and cooperative trade. That was what happened in the first few days. But then, as ill luck would have it, a report by V. Matviyenko, chairman of the national bank, that the Ukraine may withdraw the ruble from circulation entirely in February appeared in the newspapers. Free traders in the bazaars and commercial stores immediately took a liking to the new currency. At the central market in Zaporozhye they are asking 12 coupons for a kilogram of potatoes, while cabbage is 10 coupons, onions and carrots also 10, apples are going for 25-30 coupons, eggs are 20 coupons for 10, a chicken is 100 coupons, and a three-liter bottle of milk is 20 coupons. Some traders, particularly those from the Caucasus, take rubles too, but at twice the coupon price.

The eternal question: How do you earn enough money to eat?—is followed this January by another: What do you do with your rubles? L. Kravchuk stated in one of his speeches that in the course of the switch to a national currency the state will not be responsible for the rubles held by the population. The people responded to the president's words by forming a new waiting line—at the savings banks, where they go before dawn and wait until

noon to put into their savings accounts their very own rubles which the new authorities have suddenly decided to despise.

Anticipating a social explosion, President L. Kravchuk appeared on television 14 January to explain the factors that put the Ukraine in such a difficult position. This time the traditional accusations against Russia could not be compared with the keen criticism of his own Cabinet of Ministers.

But the main mistake can hardly be reduced to a question of personalities, because it lies in the fact that the Cabinet of Ministers began the reforms without having key market laws: on destatization and privatization, on ownership, on land. Therefore prices were dictated not by the market, but by monopolists, chief among whom is still the state. For instance, the popular "Odesskaya" half-cured sausage went up in price more than fivefold (R150), but its producer, the oblast consumer cooperatives' union, did not get richer. According to A. Meklushenko, chairman of the oblast consumer cooperatives' union, out of that R150 per kilogram, R100 goes on raw materials and production of the sausage, 57 kopeks on the processors' expenses, slightly more than that on the sellers' wages, and the rest in tax. The Ukraine has replaced the 5-percent "Gorbachev" sales tax with a 28-percent value-added tax which is included in the price of the product. In the end the budget subsidies which have reduced the price of certain varieties of boiled sausage still come out of the consumer's pocket.

The center freed prices, but did not free enterprise at the same time, and there it diverged from the local authorities. At the end of December, after L. Kravchuk's Decree "On Temporary Urgent Measures To Step Up the Struggle Against Speculation and Illegal Trading Activity," an administrative tightening of the screws began in the sphere of distribution of goods. At the same time the Savings Bank introduced a procedure whereby a cooperative member or individual selling his products to a state store does not receive the money thus earned until six months later. Naturally, the "private" departments immediately emptied.

Meanwhile the local soviets have become confirmed in the view that trade should be privatized as soon as possible. A session of the Zaporozhye City Soviet arbitrarily declared the city's state trade outlets to be municipal property, so that they could subsequently be privatized without asking for Kiev's blessing. Then the city soviet executive committee adopted a decision on introducing a free-trade regime in Zaporozhye.

These market steps by the local soviet have prompted dissatisfaction in the center.

Unions, Industry Meet on Labor Unrest

AU2901095192 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 9, 22 Jan 92 p 4

[Report by Mykola Volok, Kirovohrad; date not given: "Strikers From the 'Nuclear Hell'"]

[Text] The meeting of leaders of industrial enterprises and trade unions that was organized by the Oblast Council of Trade Unions Federation had an unexpected finale. While judgments were being passed and solutions sought as to how to emerge from the present crisis situation and whether appeals should be sent to the president of the Ukraine and to the Cabinet of Ministers, a group of miners from Ingul Mining Administration No. 2 walked in and announced that they were going on strike.

As was later discovered, the first shift at one of the uranium mines refused to descend to the "nuclear hell" until the December wages were paid.

The resoluteness with which the uranium miners got down to business fueled the fire for the participants in the meeting. The president and the prime minister were accused of introducing insufficiently considered price increases and the Supreme Council of authorizing a vacation for the deputies at such a crucial period. Nor was the Ukrainian Federation of Independent Trade Unions spared—it allegedly acts in such a way as to just scare but not to hurt anybody. The only voice in support of the government was that of Olga Fololyeyeva, director of a stockings factory. The majority voted to deliver an ultimatum to the leadership containing a threat that, unless the demands are met, they will resort to extreme measures.

Moldova

Parliament Grants New Powers to President

LD2801152292 Moscow TASS in English 1405 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev January 28 TASS—The Moldovan president now has the right to restructure supreme bodies of authority, appoint and dismiss members of the cabinet, heads of other institutions and republican and local organisations. He has been granted these rights by the law "On Organising Executive Authorities and Legal Guarantees for Radical Economic Reforms" which was adopted at the morning session of the Moldovan Parliament on Tuesday [28 January].

During the radical economic reform the Moldovan president is given the right to issue decrees on relations of property, economic management, budgetary and financial system, remuneration for work, and pricing.

Snegur Expected To Present New Government

OW2701223892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, quoting sources close to the Moldovan president, reports that Mircea Snegur is expected to present a new composition of government to parliament later this week. That will mark a practical move within the framework of action on the presidential election program which envisaged the forming of a government of national concord.

The sources indicated that up to half of the current body of government may be replaced. They did not rule out that ministerial posts may be offered to some ex-Communist functionaries, as well as Russian-speaking people.

President Snegur has repeatedly stressed that "the business qualities of today's leaders matter much more to me than their nationality or past party membership."

President Appoints Ambassador to Romania

OW2401180892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 24 Jan 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has appointed the former Union's Consul-General to Jassy, Mr. Aurel Denile, to the post of Moldova's first ambassador to Romania. Previously, the newly-appointed ambassador worked as editor-in-chief of Moldovan TV, Director of the Kishinev opera and ballet theater, and Moldova's Deputy Minister of Culture.

Reunification Conference With Romania Viewed

PM2801135792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Viktor Volodin report: "Romania-Moldova: Iasi Conference Calls for Unification"]

[Text] The National Convention for the Unification of Romania and Moldova has begun its work in the city of Iasi, in the north of Romania. Demonstrations by advocates of the restoration of "Greater Romania" have been held in its support in Iasi and Suceava.

The main political figures at the session of the convention were, according to an ASSOCIATED PRESS report, Petre Roman, former prime minister of Romania and national leader of the National Salvation Front, which retains a parliamentary majority, and Yuriye Roshka, chairman of the Moldovan People's Front. On opening the convention, its participants marked the 133d anniversary of the unification of the two principalities of Moldova and Wallachia, which began the creation of a single Romanian state. However, it was clearly not for the sake of celebrations marking this historic date that they had gathered in Iasi.

The point is that on Saturday a meeting of the two presidents of the neighboring Romanian-speaking states—Mircea Snegur of sovereign Moldova and Ion Iliescu of Romaniia—will be held in the border city of Ungheni, which is on the Moldovan side. Even before this meeting, which will be the first to take place on the soil of the Republic of Moldova, the majority of Romanian newspapers have carried headlines like "Unification of Romania and the Republic of Moldova Now" and "The Hour Has Come When all Romanians Must Cast a Resolute Vote in Favor of the Age-Old Ideals of Unification."

"I fought for unification during World War II. I want to be a witness of it," writes one supporter of the restoration of "Greater Romania" in a letter published in the Romanian press.

This is not the first time that such publications have appeared on the pages of Romanian newspapers. Nor is it the first time that calls for unification have been heard. Whereas in Ceausescu's time the idea of reviving "Greater Romania" was not openly voiced, it has been expressed loudly and clearly since the December 1989 events, which put an end to totalitarian dictatorship in the country, and especially since the collapse of the Soviet Union. In addition to Bessarabia, it is intended to incorporate within Romania Northern Bukovina, which is currently part of the Ukraine, and the "Romanian territories seized by force" south of Moldova.

Such calls are issued, as a general rule, by certain political parties and a number of parliamentarians and public organizations which the free Romanian press considers it its duty to support. Incidentally, quite a lot of press criticism is being leveled at Mircea Snegur and

Ion Iliescu, presidents of Moldova and Romania, who, in the opinion of certain newspapers, "are in no hurry to add their voices to the voice of the people." Indeed, in such a delicate issue as the return of Bessarabia to Romania, official Bucharest prefers to adopt a restrained stance. While developing multifaceted relations with Kishinev, it is committed to a policy of "small steps," realizing that a "big step" could lead to serious complications. In its neighborly relations with the Ukraine Romania, which is experiencing serious economic difficulties, is more interested in that than confrontation.

Romanian President Ion Iliescu also adopts a well-considered stance. Despite noting in his recent AP interview that the reunification of Romania and Moldova is "historically inevitable," Iliescu has stated that Romania should not exert pressure in this question. For his part, Moldovan President Snegur has repeatedly remarked that Moldova is interested in developing the most multifacted cooperation with Romania at the level of two sovereign states linked by historical, cultural, and linguistic roots. As far as former Romanian Premier Roman is concerned, however, his participation in the work of the national convention in Iasi could indicate merely a change in his previous standpoint on this problem.

Romanian Envoy Comments on Reunification Issue

92UN0661A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview with Vasile Sandru, Romanian ambassador in Russia, by Igor Rotar: "'We Are the Sole People in Europe Who Have To Prove Our Right To Live on Our Own Land'"]

[Text] [Rotar] Mr. Sandru, what is your evaluation of the problem of the reunification of Moldova and Romania?

[Sandru] This is a very complex issue and should not be decided in haste. Moldova—or, to be precise, Bessarabia—was first wrested away from Romania in 1812, reunited with Romania in 1918, and once again torn away from our state in 1940. All the ties which had been established at the time of joint habitation were crudely severed by force. For many years contacts in practically all spheres were very limited. And, although the sense of belonging to a single nation has never been lost in Romanians living on both sides of the River Prut, the forcibly created estrangement has exerted an influence, and there is no disregarding this. An entirely new situation has now arisen and we must do everything possible to restore the severed ties in all spheres: the economy, culture, science.

[Rotar] So reunification is, nonetheless, ultimately inevitable?

[Sandru] I would say: It is not that it is inevitable, it is natural. And it should occur sometime.

[Rotar] But both in Romania and in Moldova there are political organizations advocating the accelerated reunification of the two states. Thus a group of Romanian and Moldavian members of parliament recently formed the "National Reunification Council"....

[Sandru] Well, such a situation does not surprise me in the least in a democratic society. I believe that people have a legitimate right to express their beliefs. Why they do so is another matter.... Do they themselves believe in the practicability of the immediate unification of the two states? I am convinced that the people who are now so vigorously advocating immediate reunification would alter their views appreciably if they had to sit down at the negotiating table and actually confront the problem.

[Rotar] When will reunification occur, for all that, and how will the problem of the territory of the Dnestr region be solved, a region which was never a part of the Romanian state and which has down the ages been settled predominantly by Slavs?

[Sandru] To answer this question, we need to be a part of some model, and I believe that currently we have no basis for this. But it cannot be forgotten in a solution of this problem that Moldavians constitute approximately 40 percent of the population of the Dnestr region.

[Rotar] The viewpoint is quite prevalent that Romania is in no hurry to officially commence the process of unification with Moldova since there would then inevitably arise the problem of Transylvania ....

[Sandru] Truly, I have been encountering this interpretation of the problem in the media. Thus, for example, a particular theory on this score was developed in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: Transylvania was regarded as a border state (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: In issue 147 NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carried the article "Moldova or Bessarabia?" The term "border state" in this publication signified a territory which is transient in terms of ethnic and historical culture and is located "in the zone of attraction" of two states). But, in my opinion, an unnatural link between a real problem—Romanian land which has come to be outside the borders of the Romanian state (Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina)—and an artificially created problem is being made here. Transylvania has always been Romanian land and is at the present time part of our state, and there are no legal grounds for contesting these facts. The Transylvania problem simply does not exist. You know, a paradoxical situation is being created: We are the sole people in Europe who have to prove their right to live on their own land where they took shape as a nation.

[Rotar] The problem of the psychological estrangement between Romanians of the two states is quite serious also. I have spoken with Moldavian students who have left Romanian higher educational institutions on account of the arrogant attitude of their local fellow students....

[Sandru] Some people have a certain paternalistic approach, possibly.... And, it seems to me, these are the same people who are urging immediate unification with Moldova. Some of them are going to Cisinau and starting to edify Moldavians, and this is, of course, insulting to them. As far as the difference in mentality is concerned, however, it is natural. In Russia also, I believe, there are differences in the mentality of the Muscovite, the citizen of Rostov, and the Siberian. With us in Romania also, despite the fact that we are not a large country and have practically no linguistic differences, the different characters of the inhabitants of different regions—anecdotes are built on this even. But a common national character is preserved, of course. One further problem is connected with Bessarabia, it is true.... When Bessarabia became a part of Romania, there were abuses on the part of the Romanian administration in respect of the local population, although I would add for the sake of objectivity that in other historical periods both the Russian tsarist and the Soviet administrations behaved in the same way. But this problem should not be approached one-sidedly: Bessarabia was perceived as being a part of Romanian land—enterprises were built, and the local inhabitants were rendered assistance. The mistakes made by the Romanian administration are being skillfully used for particular propaganda, and various false theories are being constructed on the basis of them. We need to analyze our history objectively and overcome false stereotypes.

[Rotar] But since we have begun to talk about the reunification of Moldova and Romania, mention has to be made also of the problem of Southern Bessarabia—a territory which is now in the Ukraine. Will there be the reunification of Southern Bessarabia with Romania simultaneously with the unification of the two Romanian states or are these two different processes?

[Sandru] Bessarabia is a single whole. But I would not want now to go into details as to the form in which and how unification will occur. This is a complex issue in need of constructive discussion. Southern Bessarabia has its own history. In the last century, following the Crimean War, the south of Bessarabia was returned to Moldova. And only in 1878, following the Berlin Conference, was it once again forcibly wrested away from Moldova. A Romanian population continued on this territory. I do not know to what extent the Romanian language and national self-awareness have been preserved there, it is true. But the fact that Romanians have lived here for many centuries running is a historically indisputable fact. But we are not speaking about territorial claims. You know, Romanians are the sole people in Europe whose state is surrounded on all sides by their fellow tribesmen and blood brothers.

[Rotar] The Bukovina problem would seem quite serious also. Thus the Romanian Parliament did not recognize the competence of the referendum on the independence of the Ukraine on this territory.

[Sandru] Bukovina was artificially divided into two parts. In 1940 the Soviet Union took Northern Bukovina as payment for Romania's allegedly having exploited Bessarabia for 20 years. It is significant that nowhere was there any mention of Ukraine's right to this land. The severance of Northern Bukovina from Romania was built on pure violence. The national composition of Northern Bukovina was changed. Romanians were deported, and Ukrainians and representatives of other nationalities were settled in their place so that now Romanians constitute only 23 percent in Chernovtsy Oblast, and the proportion in the city of Chernovtsy has fallen to seven percent. In addition, there have at the present time even been instances of the devastation of Romanian cemeteries: Romanians have been dug up from their graves, and Ukrainians buried in their place. Even when Northern Bukovina was a part of Austro-Hungary, the streets had Romanian names; now, however, only two streets throughout the city of Chernovtsy have Romanian names. Romanian schools have been closed down. The situation has changed somewhat now, it is true, but the problem remains. According to official data, approximately 500,000 Romanians live in the Ukraine (the Ukrainian Romanians themselves believe that there are considerably more of them, it is true). But even according to official statistics this is the third largest people of Ukraine in terms of numbers. But in all the activities devoted to the national minorities there is no question of the Romanians. There is not a single Romanian member of the Ukrainian Parliament; Romanian Ukrainians, and there are approximately 60,000 of them, incidentally, have their own member of parliament. We have a special parliamentary quota for the representatives of all national minorities.

[Rotar] What paths of a solution of the Bukovina problem do you see?

[Sandru] It needs to be acknowledged for a start that such a problem exists. If we pretend that it does not, solving it will be impossible. I stress that we are not forcing events or, even less, making territorial claims. On the contrary, we want to develop good relations with the Ukraine. This is very important for us since the Ukraine has become our biggest neighbor: We have more than 800 kilometers of common border. And on the basis of good relations we must find approaches to a solution of the Bukovina problem.

Parliament Votes To Introduce Currency

PM2801120092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Eduard Kondratov report: "Moldova: Lei To Replace Ruble"]

[Text] Kishinev—After postponing the adoption of draft laws that were on the session's agenda, deputies of the Moldovan parliament spent two days arguing heatedly over where to find a lifeline for the republic, which is drowning in a morass of rubles.

There was no shortage of bold proposals, and some of them were staggering. These, for instance: Call on all peasants, via television and radio, not to sell food for rubles; and introduce ration cards for basic products and sell everything else at the dollar rate. It was also proposed that Moldovan coupons modeled on those in Belarus be introduced, that the "transparent" eastern border be closed by customs posts, and that some country be found from which hard currency could be borrowed.

They did not agonize long over where to find such a country. The country is close at hand. Stating that Moldovan independence has no economic foundation, deputies who advocate reunification with Romania proposed that they appeal to its parliament to include Moldova in the "common lei area."

The advocates of the advent of the Romanian lei opposed the intention of the Snegur government to introduce a national currency—also, incidentally, a lei. Once again there were speeches from the parliamentary rostrum about an "artificial state." However, under the influence of statements by the president and his supporters, it was decided after all to adopt a law on a national currency. But then disputes flared up over what to call it. They proposed the "grosz," the "ducat," the "national lei," and the "Moldovan lei." After several rounds of voting, the lei won. But the qualifying word "Moldovan" will not appear on the bank notes.

So in the near future Moldova will have its own currency: the lei (or more correctly the "leu," which means "lion"). There are 100 bani in one lei. An order for its realization and printing has already been placed in a West European country. The director of the national bank is not yet telling journalists which country it is.

IMF Says Membership Based on New Currency

OW2701223792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Donald Donovan, head of the IMF delegation, said in Kishinev on Monday [26 January] that the International Monetary Fund is ready to give Moldova practical assistance in the introduction of a currency of its own. Thereafter, he said, Moldova might be admitted to the IMF, although that would depend to a considerable extent on the outcome of his delegation's talks with the Moldovan government. The talks are due later this week.

Law Sends Ruble Into Black Market Tailspin

OW2401154992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1352 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A law on the introduction of a national Moldovan currency, the leu, passed by the republic's legislature on January 23, has sent the ruble plummeting on the "black" exchange market.

On January 24, the U.S. dollar was purchased at 150 rubles (against 120 rubles before the law was passed) and sold at 180-200 rubles.

Specialists believe, the Moldovan leu's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar wll be 10:1. Thus, the ruble, given its current average rate against the dollar, will be 15 times cheaper regardless of its exchange rate against the leu.

Government Acts To Protect Consumer Market

LD2601225392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1505 GMT 23 Jan 92

[By unidentified MOLDOVA-PRESS-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kishinev, 23 Jan (TASS)—In order to quantify Moldova's state debt arising from the cash invested by its citizens in securities issued by the former savings bank of the USSR, all transactions relating to their purchase and sale are to be halted as of 1 March by the Moldovan savings bank. This was stated in the decision "On Additional Measures for the Protection of the Consumer Market and Improvement of Cash Circulation," which was adopted by the government today.

Following the registration of the securities issued before 1 March, the government guarantees citizens of the republic their free circulation. Even in the current quarter citizens will be paid wages partitially in checks to be introduced in the republic.

The decision also envisages that as of 25 January all trade enterprises and organizations will be selling their goods only to Moldovan citizens in exchange for showing documents proving their identity and that of minors in their families.

The Ministry of Trade is also instructed to work out criteria for the sale of foodstuffs to citizens of other countries.

High Prices Lead to Unsold Output

LD2601072592 Moscow TASS in English 0713 GMT 26 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeli]

Kishinev January 26 TASS—Serious difficulties are being experienced by both Moldovan enterprises which are lacking raw materials and many of those whose products the majority of the republic's population cannot afford to buy following the freeing of prices.

According to a report by the State Department for Statistics, in mid-January the prices of beef and pork went up by more than 1,000 per cent on average, those of

butter by 1,497 per cent, milk—by 302 and bread by almost 300 per cent as compared with those in December last year.

The Kishinev wine and brandy distillery is at a standstill. Distillery products are in abundant supply and fill all the storerooms of enterprises and shops, the newspaper VECHERNY KISHINEV wrote.

The prices of brandy are so high that even enthusiasts cannot afford to buy it. A similar situation has developed at the Kishinev meat plant. Tonnes of meat products fill the cold stores unsold.

Cabinet, Local Leaders Discuss Economic Reform

LD2601225992 Kishinev Radio Kishinev Network in Russian 0700 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] A conference by members of the Cabinet of Ministers with leaders of local executive authorities took place at the headquarters of the government of the Republic of Moldova on 11 January.

President Mircea Snegur, who chaired the conference, dwelt on the main points of the implementation of the fundamental economic reform, the first steps of which have already been made by the government. He stressed that these reforms are doomed to failure if local authorities do not participate actively in implementing them. So far there is no sign of committed participation. Local authorities are still thinking about how to proceed instead of about actually proceeding. The president urged the local leaders to display greater initiative and independence in this transitional period, without waiting for instructions from the center, as used to be the case.

It was noted that a decree will be signed in the immediate future granting additional powers to local self-government bodies. Other measures intended to breathe new life into executive authority will also be taken. Representatives of self-government bodies should take advantage in their work of the support offered by the supervisory bodies established in the republic. So far there is no sign of this. Goods and foodstuffs worth millions of rubles are being taken out of the republic.

In their speeches, Vulkeneshtskiy Rayon Mayor Aleksandru Grosu, Nisporenskiy Rayon Mayor Mikhay Chorich, Dubesarskiy Rayon Mayor Ion Mitskul, and other leaders agreed that it is necessary to give local authorities additional powers to enable them to feel that they are masters in the territory under their jurisdiction. The speakers drew attention here to their view that they are sometimes scorned by heads of ministries and departments who make arbitrary decisions and then demand unquestioning fulfillment of them. This is what happened with the deregulation of prices. The local authorities were left out. Instead of the announced deregulation, what actually happened was another increase, because the immediate producers did not have the chance to participate in drawing up the new pricing mechanism. The rayon mayors raised a number of pressing issues, the resolution of which depends on the stand of individual ministries. They are issues involving the provision of food to kindergartens, schools, and medical establishments, and the problems of construction, health care, the development of culture, and the prevention of the export of goods beyond the republic's borders.

Moldovan Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi; Andrey Sangeli, first deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and the food industry; Konstantin Tampize, minister of the national economy; Minister of Material Resources Konstantin Yavorskiy; and other leaders of ministries and departments gave detailed answers to all the questions that arose during the conference.

The participants in the conference called for such working meetings to be held more often, especially in the current, difficult, transitional period, when it is necessary to coordinate actions and to make effective and correct decisions.

Income Indexation Procedures Established

LD2701174992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Moldova's government has decided on a procedure for the indexation of the population's monetary incomes in connection with increases in prices and tariffs. However, according to the document, incomes that citizens receive from private property and entrepreneurial activity will not be indexed. Authorities in the Dnestr republic intend to protect the consumer market with the help of checks [chekov]. They will function on all Dnestr territory.

Kazakhstan

Ministry Denies Nuclear Arms Trade With Iran

LD2801195392 Moscow TASS in English 1816 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Alma-Ata January 28 TASS—The Kazakhstan Foreign Ministry has issued a statement denying foreign media reports that the republic ostensibly engages in trade in nuclear weapons.

As an example, the ministry cites the British newspaper the DAILY MAIL which reported at the end of last week Iran's attempts to acquire intercontinental ballistic nuclear missiles from Kazakhstan.

The British newspaper wrote that Iran acquired such an opportunity in view of the gaining of state independence by Kazakhstan.

The DAILY MAIL asserted that President Nursultan Nazarbayev had ostensively made at least two unreported visits to Tehran to discuss the terms of a deal to this effect.

"Such allegations" in all obviousness point to their organised nature, the Kazakhstan Foreign Ministry stated. The entire logic of events indicates that certain circles pursue the aim of detracting from Kazakhstan's international prestige on the eve of its admission to the United Nations organisation.

The Kazakhstan Foreign Ministry firmly condemns the circulation of false information about its alleged trade in nuclear weapons with anyone whatsoever or about its president's secret trips to Tehran.

The statement recalls that during recent meetings with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and U.S. Undersecretary of State Reginald Bartholomew, Nazarbayev had again reaffirmed the well-known stand concerning Kazakhstan's participation in disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation processes.

Through such provocations, no one is allowed to impair mutual understanding which is taking shape with such a difficulty as regards a solution to one of major issues of our times and Kazakhstan's aspiration to strengthen international stability, the Kazakhstan Foreign Ministry statement points out.

Foreign Trade, Activities Liberalized

LD2701124492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev has signed a decree on the organization of the republic's foreign-economic activities, the AZIYA-PRESS agency reports. The decree stipulates that all incorporated companies in Kazakhstan, irrespective of form of ownership, are entitled to engage in foreign-economic activities, brokerage included, without any special permit. The exceptions are exports of products of state significance.

Conference on Baykonyr Cosmodrome Held

LD2801230992 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0000 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] A conference with First Deputy Prime Minister Yezhikov-Babakhanov was devoted to regulating relations between republican bodies and defense and space departments operating at Baykonyr cosmodrome. Taking part were representatives of scientific, military, and law enforcement bodies.

It was noted that Kazakhstan, as an independent state, was currently doing a great deal to determine its own principles for using Baykonyr's scientific and technical potential, and to elaborate a treaty basis jointly with military departments for the further implementation of measures being pursued at the cosmodrome. This encompasses a broad range of problems, including those concerning compensation for the ecological aftermath of launches.

The state defense committee and the republican commission carrying out an inventory of the cosmodrome's material and technical resources and infrastructure were instructed to step up the introduction of republican scientific and technical control systems. At the same time they were recommended to establish close mutual links with the space forces command and to enhance the reliability of information provision. Instructions were also given to settle more promptly matters connected with the functioning of the space research agency set up in the republic at the end of last year.

Conflict With Russia Ruled Out

LD2801123792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2359 GMT 27 Jan 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section"]

[Text] First Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Yezhikov-Babakhanov ruled out the possibility of conflicts over Baykonyr between Russia and Kazakhstan. Commenting on the results of the January 27 session of Kazakhstan Government which discussed the use of Baykonyr launch pad potential, Yevgeniy Yozhikov-Babakhanov said: Representatives of the country's space units, united commandment of the Armed Forces and Baykonyr took part in the Alma-Ata session.

According to Yozhikov-Babakhanov, Kazakhstan proposed to draw up a way of cooperation within the Minsk agreement on joint strategic forces of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. It is planned to stipulate the means of control and operative informing of the republican government by the military industrial authorities. The documents to be prepared may be signed at a meeting of government heads or state leaders of the

Commonwealth countries. Speaking about the possibility of issuing Baykonur's shares Yozhikov-Babakhanov noted: This is not a current time issue .

Diplomatic Ties Established With South Korea

LD2801193492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The signing of a protocol establishing diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and South Korea took place in Moscow today. Both sides noted the importance of this step for further development of bilateral ties and stressed the personal contribution of the presidents of both states to broadening the mutually advantageous cooperation.

Official Comments on New Ties

OW2901021092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Tuesday [29 January] Kazakhstan's ambassador to Moscow Kanat Saudabeyev and South Korea's ambassador to the Russian capital Kong No-myong signed a protocol to establish diplomatic relations, to make Kazakhstan the first CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] country South Korea established relations with.

In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] Soudabaev described the step as a logical conclusion to the process launched by last year's visit to the Korean peninsula by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. The republic's foreign policy is based on a desire to make a civilized entry into the world community as an equal partner, said the ambassador.

Kazakhstan has established diplomatic relations with many countries, including the USA, Great Britain, France, Germany, North Korea.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Mongolia

LD2401182792 Moscow TASS in English 0840 GMT 24 Jan 92

[By correspondent Dugar Sanzhiev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar January 24 TASS—Mongolia and Kazakhstan have signed an agreement establishing full diplomatic relations between the republics at the level of embassies, the Mongolian External Affairs Ministry announced today.

The two neighbour-states are both interested in keeping up and developing bilateral political, economic and social relations.

Direct links are now being established between Bayan Ulegei Aimak in Mongolia and adjacent Kazakh regions. An airline, planned to be inaugurated there, will ensure passenger exchanges between the two neighbouring countries.

Envoy, Japan's Watanabe View Diplomatic Ties

LD2801171792 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0200 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Saudabeyev, Kazakhstan's plenipotentiary representative, has held a meeting in Moscow with Watanabe, Japanese minister of foreign affairs. On instructions from their governments, they exchanged letters expressing a mutual aspiration to establish diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Japan. Both sides exchanged opinions on prospects for developing cooperation between the two countries in various areas and on other issues of mutual interest.

On behalf of Prime Minister Miyazawa, the head of Japan's foreign policy department conveyed best wishes to President Nazarbayev. Edamura, Japan's ambassador in Moscow, took part in the meeting.

IMF Membership May Take Effect in Apr

OW2901024892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan may join IMF in April 1992, said in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] Uraz Jandosov, a consultant of the presidential Supreme Economic Council.

According to him, the process of the official admission of Kazakhstan into the fund has already begun. It normally takes 6 to 9 months, but in this case the IMF leadership wants Kazakhstan "to be as closely tied to the fund as possible."

President Announces Refined Gold Production

OW2701135692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan began to produce refined gold with a fineness of 99.98%. Speaking at the Monday [27 January] presentation of the first 10-kg ingot in Alma-Ata, Kazakh President Nazarbaev said that until the end of 1992 the republic would produce "dozens of tons of such gold."

Tajikistan

Committee Denies Weapons Deliveries to Kabul

LD2801192992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1800 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The Defense Committee of Tajikistan rejects a statement by one of the Afghan mujahidin leaders on delivery of arms to the Kabul government. The Republic of Tajikistan has not and is not sending any kind of weaponry, military technology, or military equipment to the Kabul government. This was said by Major General Farukh Niyazov, chairman of the Defense Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan, to a TAJIKTA correspondent.

The general stressed that a statement by Nasrullah Mansur, leader of the Harakat-e Enqilab-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan], published in Iran's JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on 27 January, accusing the Central Asian republics—including Tajikistan—of arms deliveries to Afghanistan does not correspond to reality.

The general said that the Republic of Tajikistan has signed no agreement or treaty with the Government of Afghanistan on arms delivery. Arms and military technology situated on the territory of the republic is under strict control and cannot be taken out of the territory of the republic. Arms factories do not exist in Tajikistan, and no arms have been delivered to Afghanistan from the territory of the republic.

Gen. Niazov stressed that such false statements by the leaders of the armed Afghan opposition leaders will not help in strengthening goodneighborly relations between the two states.

'New Provocation' Committed on Afghan Border

LD2801195992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1800 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] A new provocation has been committed on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. An Mi-24 helicopter, while observing the state border, came under fire at 1225 on 28 January from the village of (?Jadid) in Afghanistan. Although the helicopter was hit eight times, the pilot completed the flight thanks to his courage and bravery.

The Mi-24 and an Mi-8 were watching the difficult mountainous terrain along the state border of Moscow Rayon. The (?pilot) of the Mi-8 helicopter discovered four Afghans 300 meters from the border. They were arrested by border guards. The Mi-24 was providing cover for a group of border guards [words indistinct] when it came under fire.

Colonel Kochenov, chief of the Operational Group of the Central Asian Border District, told the TAJIKTA correspondent that the Afghans arrested were panning for gold on the Tajikistan bank of the Pandzh River. The border guards were fired upon by mojahedin of the Muhammad Yunes group belonging to the Islamic Society of Afghanistan. The border villages of Afghanistan are under the control of this group. The border guards did not open fire from the Tajikistan side.

Air Link Slated To Be Established With Iran

OW2701115992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1105 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan and Iran will have a direct air link by March 21, the New Year's Day by the Muslim calendar. A protocol of intentions was signed in Dushanbe by Tajikistan's state airline chiefs and Iranian civil aviation.

There will be weekly charter flights from Dushanbe to Tehran, Tabriz and Mashkhar. The Tajik airline will fly Tu-154, Tu-134, Yak-40, and the Iranian company, Boeings.

Armenia

Prime Minister on Fuel Crisis, Military Budget

LD2801155192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0920 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 28 Jan (TASS)—For Armenia the period up to 1995 will be a period of stabilization of the economy, Gagik Arutyunyan, Armenian vice president and acting prime minister, believes. Speaking on 27 January at a conference on the "Economic Policy of the Republic of Armenia," which opened here today, he said this could be achieved by means of transition to the market and structural changes in the national economy.

Describing the present crisis in the economy, the Armenian leader stressed that the republic is experiencing serious difficulties in supplies of fuel and power resources. The head of government said a new type of blockade is now being employed against Armenia, with only a minimum of fuel oil coming in by rail via Azerbaijan. As a result of this, along with the inadequate supplies of gas via Georgia, it is proving impossible to ensure the normal functioning of industry.

Gagik Arutyunyan admitted that this year "huge military spending will be envisaged in Armenia." Noting the trend of a number of republics of the former union to introduce their own currency, he stated that Armenia should also be ready to take such a step and that the government is working in this direction.

CIS Commander To Sue Defense Minister

OW2301161592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1344 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Major-General Yevgeniy Mescheriakov, commander of the 7th CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Army stationed in Armenia, intends to sue Armenia's defense minister Vazgen Sarkisyan.

On Monday [27 January] Y. Mescheriakov told the news agency SNARK Tuesday [28 January] evening he was detained by the defence minister and spent 24 hours in a basement. He was even denied the use of a telephone.

For his part V. Sarkisyan told SNARK's correspondent that Y. Mescheriakov had intended, without notifying Armenia's leadership, to despatch helicopter gunships out of the republic which posed a violation of law. The minister avoided answering the question as to where the general was kept.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Austria Trip

Arrives in Vienna

LD2301205592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Armenia, which regards itself as a European country, intends to become a full member of the international community and is trying to join the United Nations, the European Council, and other important European organizations as soon as possible. It intends to join the CSCE process. This was announced by Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan at a meeting with Peter Jankowitsch, state secretary for Europe and Integration attached to the Austrian federal chancellor. Ovanesyan arrived in Vienna on a two-day visit.

Meets With Austrian Chancellor

LD2401213592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1336 GMT 24 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Excerpts] Vienna, Jan 24 (TASS)—Opportunities and prospects for economic cooperation between Austria and Armenia were discussed today during a meeting between Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and Armenian Foreign Minister Raafi Ovanesyan, who is here on an official visit. The federal chancellor's office reported that the talks lasted for about half an hour and that Ovanesyan proposed establishing close cooperation with Austria in transportation, construction, tourism, and textiles. He expressed the wish that a delegation of Austrian specialists will be sent to Armenia as soon as possible to discuss specific projects. In addition, the minister is interested in the possibility of inaugurating scheduled air service between Vienna and Yerevan and how long it would take to organize this. He thanked the head of the Austrian government for the extensive aid rendered by his country to Armenia following the destructive earthquake in 1988. [passage omitted]

The minister commented that Armenia had asked the West to help it solve its power problems. This could mean supplying power directly or by providing financial and technical assistance as the nuclear power station is recommissioned or a new station is built.

Diplomatic Links Established

LD2401220892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1512 GMT 24 Jan 92

[No dateline as received] Austria and Armenia today formally established diplomatic relations. The corresponding joint announcement was signed here by R. Ovanesyan and his Austrian colleague, Alois Mock. Speaking later to journalists, he said that initially Austria's interests in Armenia will be represented by the Austrian ambassador to Moscow. Mock said that Austria intends to open an embassy in the Caucasus region, but exactly where is as yet unclear. He also noted that

Armenia, unlike Georgia and Azerbaijan, is a "stable country". A. Mock announced that Austria is ready for "extensive economic cooperation" with Armenia and that R. Ovanesyan had submitted the draft of a treaty on economic cooperation with Austria, which will be considered by the federal government.

Comments on Regional Problems

AU2601200292 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 25 Jan 92 p 4

[Interview with Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan by Burkhard Bischof in Vienna; date not given: "What We Need Least of All Is a New Empire"]

[Excerpts] [Bischof] The crisis in the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh claims victims every day, and all efforts to resolve this conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan have been unsuccessful. Is it impossible to resolve the conflict?

[Ovanesyan] I hope it is not. The crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh concerns not only Armenia; it concerns all states in the region, and they all should have an interest in preventing this conflict from becoming another Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

We hope that the world—especially Austria, which has played a leading role regarding the protection of human and minority rights—will become more active in this conflict and will bring pressure to bear on Baku to make Azerbaijan return to the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

[Bischof] How do you judge the efforts of Iran and Turkey to expand their influence in the region? Are they useful, or could they contribute to enhancing tensions?

[Ovanesyan] Of course, it had to be expected to a certain extent that after the disintegration of the Soviet empire, our neighbors would try to fill the vacuum and expand their spheres of influence. But what we need least of all is a new empire that would replace the old one, which we have just gotten rid of laboriously. If efforts were made to create a new empire, Armenia would fight such efforts. As for Turkey, it has political and economic interests and therefore wishes to normalize its relations with Armenia. One reason is that its only railroad connection with the former USSR passes through Armenia. Turkey must make a decision on principle: Does it want to be a European state and become integrated into the European structures, or does it intend to orient itself toward the East?

[Bischof] Following recent developments, Armenia is apparently trying to return to Russia and is playing an active role in the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. Do you see a sort of protective power in the Russian Federation?

[Ovanesyan] We hope that the CIS will survive, even though it has proved to be much more difficult to build structures from the top to the base than from the base to the top, as has been done in Europe. Armenia has concluded friendship and cooperation treaties with Russia, the Ukraine, and other successor states. Our relations with Russia are of a new quality. We are equal partners now, even though the one is a giant and the other very small. So we have close partnership relations with Russia. This does not mean, however, that we want to be protected by Russia or any other nation.

[Bischof] Armenia has applied for membership within the United Nations and the CSCE. Is Armenia also planning to take part in the Vienna negotiations on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE)?

[Ovanesyan] We have filed our application for UN membership. Next week I will take part in the CSCE foreign ministers' meeting in Prague, where our application for membership will be discussed. As for the CFE, the 12 USSR successor states are currently discussing the question of how to distribute the arms of the former Soviet Union. That must, of course, be done in such a way that a balance, peace, and stability are ensured, and the use of force is prevented. That, of course, also holds true for Transcaucasia, where Azerbaijan has created an imbalance by taking over the arsenal of the former Soviet Army. This must be corrected within the scope of the CFE; otherwise such an approach would invite further aggression.

'Information Vacuum' in Newspapers, Broadcasting

PM2801121492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Sergey Bablumyan report: "Armenia: Famine—Information Famine"]

[Text] Yerevan—Since the beginning of the year not a single Moscow newspaper has been printed in Yerevan.

The day is not far off when the same fate will befall the majority of local periodicals, too. But subscribers to republic newspapers are not receiving them even today—the delivery of newspapers to homes has practically stopped.

The information vacuum is exacerbated by the severely restricted television broadcast times—broadcasting takes place for only three hours a day. But for many inhabitants of Armenia, in particular Yerevan, those few hours are still barren of information. Because of phased power cuts, the television receivers go dead. The city's radio network operates with frequent stoppages.

That is the sad picture regarding the information media in Armenia.

Azerbaijan

Armenian Fire Blamed for Helicopter Crash

OW2801185892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An Azeri civilian helicopter crashed near the town of Shusha, Nagorno-Karabakh, on Tureday [28 January], killing 47 people, reports the Azeri Popular Front. The front claims that the helicopter had been downed by Armenian fire.

Mutalibov Offers Condolences

LD2801191392 Moscow TASS in English 1938 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By unidentified AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku January 28 (TASS)—A civil aviation helicopter of the Azerbaijani Republic was shot down by a missile at approximately 1620 [1320 GMT] today. The helicopter was flying along the Agdam- Shusha route.

According to preliminary data, there were about 40 people, including women and children, on board the helicopter. All passengers and crew members were killed, Musa Mamedov, the authorised representative of the president of the Azerbaijani Republic for the temporary presidential rule in Nagorno-Karabakh areas and the adjacent zone, told AZERINFORM.

President Ayaz Mutalibov of the Azerbaijani Republic expressed condolences to the families of the dead.

Mission Issues Statement

LD2801220392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a very serious statement issued by the plenipotentiary mission of the Azerbaijani Republic in Moscow. It says: A new bloody drama took place in the mountainous part of Karabakh today. A Mi-8 civilian helicopter was shot down by a heat-seeking missile [teplovaya raketa] fired from the Armenian village of Shushikend at 1620. The helicopter, which belonged to the Azal Azerbaijan Airline and had been flying the Agdam-Shusha route, exploded in the air. It was carrying peaceful civilians from those Azerbaijani towns. According to preliminary data, more than 30 people died, including women and children. The crew—(Viktor Seregin), commander, and (Akhundov) and (Makhmudov), second and third pilots—acted heroically. The last thing they managed to do was to turn the falling helicopter away from the town of Shusha in order not to increase the number of victims.

Mutalibov Blames Armenia

LD2901105292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Azerbaijani President Mutalibov accused Armenia of state terrorism after an Azerbaijani civil aviation helicopter was destroyed over Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijani officials report that around 40 people died in this incident. The Armenian mission in Moscow stressed that the helicopter was suspected of transporting weapons to Azerbaijanis who have been attacking Armenian villages in recent days.

Government Releases 12 'Kidnapped' Armenians

NC2501163192 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1930 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani National Security Ministry [title as heard] Press Center has announced that all 12 Armenian passengers kidnapped from the Tbilisi-Moscow train passing through Azerbaijan on 13 January have been released. The Press Center said that the Armenians were taken hostage in order to be exchanged for the bodies of five Azerbaijanis killed in Geranboyskiy [Shaumyanovskiy] Rayon. The exchange, he said, did not take place due to Armenian intransigence.

The newspaper YERKIR reports that 20 Armenian passengers were taken hostage from the Tbilisi-Moscow train that day. Azerbaijan has not released any information on the remaining eight passengers.

Results of Mutalibov Visit to Turkey Viewed

PM2801144792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Sergey Mushkaterov report: "Turkey Will Train Officers From Azerbaijan. Results of A. Mutalibov's Visit to Istanbul"]

[Text] Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov has concluded his official visit to Turkey. During the trip he had talks with Turkish President Turgut Ozal, signed a treaty of friendship, cooperation, and neighborliness between the two countries, and met with representatives of business circles.

Speaking at the airport before leaving for home, A. Mutalibov told journalists that his visit to Turkey had been very useful and fruitful. According to him, the use of Turkey's high technological potential will help Azerbaijan to make the switch to a market economy more quickly. TASS reports that the president of Azerbaijan also touched on the question of cooperation with Turkey in the matter of forming an Azerbaijan national army. He reported, in particular, that Azerbaijan intends to send its future officers to Turkey to train.

Citing Turgut Ozal's official spokesman, REUTERS reports that the sides reached an accord to expand economic and trade ties. Turkey will assist Azerbaijan in drawing up commercial and civilian legislation, as well as in training 1,000 specialists annually in spheres such as banking, insurance, international trade, and diplomacy. T. Ozal's spokesman also reported that in connection with the acute grain shortage in Azerbaijan Turkey will supply it with wheat. At the same time he did not reveal the details or terms of this agreement.

To all appearances, the Azerbaijan president's successful four-day visit to Turkey may be regarded as one more piece of evidence of the recently activated desire of both countries for close cooperation. Turkey was the first state to recognize Azerbaijan's independence from the former Soviet Union, and earlier this month it announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with Baku.

Shusha Fired on From Armenian Border Villages

LD2901120592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1045 GMT 29 Jan 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Sabir Mirozoyev]

[Text] Baku, 29 Jan (TASS)—Shusha has been under fire from hail dispersal [gradoboynyye] weapons mounted in Armenia's Shushikend and Mkhitarikend villages since early this morning. Mansur Mamedov, head of Shushinskiy rayon's executive authority, says initial reports indicate that four buildings have been fully or partially destroyed in the town. The residents managed to take cover in bomb shelters in time and were not hurt. Shelling continues at noon.

Residents of Geybala village, Shushinskiy rayon, Azerbaijan, were forced to leave their homes quickly to save their lives yesterday. The Azerbaijani Internal Affairs Ministry reports that the village was destroyed in the artillery and rocket fire a few hours after the population's evacuation.

Nagorno-Karabakh Parliament Elects Officials

NC2501143292 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's Supreme Soviet elected Gevorg Petrosyan as deputy chairman and Vladimir Akobyan as secretary today. Petrosyan is the representative of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation's [ARF] organization in Nagorno-Karabakh and a member of the ARF's parliamentary group at the Armenian Supreme Soviet.

Akobyan is a candidate of historical sciences.

Members of various parliamentary commissions were also elected.

Independent News Agency Operates From Baku

PM2801165192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 92 p 6

[Correspondent Zaur Kadymbekov report under the "Events and Facts" rubric: "ASSA Ahead of the Rest"]

[Text] Baku—The independent news agency ASSA-IRADA, which has begun work in Baku, is gathering momentum. The first part of the name denotes the "Azerbaijan" Association, the second the name of its director, experienced journalist Irada Vekilova, who is a member of "33+1," the international women journalists' club. ASSA has concluded contracts with dozens of respected foreign and domestic publications and agencies for the transmission of political, economic, and current affairs information; commentaries; and reviews.

"The principles on which the collective's work is based," I. Vekilova said, "are the promptness, authenticity, and topicality of all the output sent by correspondents to the faxes and telexes of the agency whose staff includes not only journalists but skilled translators in the major Western languages as well. The broad network—more than 50—of our nonstaff representatives at state institutions, scientific research institutes, enterprises, and construction sites helps us to be constantly at the center of events."

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Still in Hiding; Situation Tense

Pilot Questioned in Tbilisi

LD2801154192 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 28 TASS—The Sukhumi airport pilot with 25 years flying experience Orest Bedia, whose crew had flown Zviad Gamsakhurdia out of Yerevan, was brought to Tbilisi from Moscow and has given a statement in Georgia's public prosecutor's office.

The law protection organs of Georgia did not find any thing criminal in the flight of this plane from Sukhumi to Moscow via Groznyy on 26 January and did not deem it necessary to detain the pilot. The prosecutor general Vakhtang Razmadze informed the contents of the talk with the commander of the crew. According to him, Orest Bedia carried out all flights without any compulsion in accordance with the orders of the Sukhumi airport controllers.

The only thing the pilot could confirm was that he had flown the Georgian ex-president out of Yerevan. But he could not have said where Zviad Gamsakhurdia and the people accompanying him left the plane—in Groznyy, where the first landing was done, or in Sukhumi. Orest Bedia alleges that he did not leave the cockpit.

The first deputy head of the Georgian "Iberia" airlines Zurab Chankotadze also could not clarify the situation. He refrained from categorically qualifying the crew's action till the end of the official enquiry. According to him, the flights of this aeroplane over last ten days were controlled by the Rostov air traffic control.

But Zurab Chankotadze did not rule out the possibility of violation of air safety regulations by the crew commander. Thus Orest Bedia in December 1990 allowed considerable overloading of the plane and must have been punished by being debarred from flying duties. This

pilot violated the same regulation on 26 January when he allowed the plane to be overloaded during its refuelling at Groznyy airport.

Supporters Refuse To Leave Plane

LD2801131392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The presidential aircraft that took Zviad Gamsakhurdia from Armenia to Abkhazia is currently at Vnukovo Airport [Moscow], where it landed on the evening of 26 January.

According to Aleksandr Karibtsvit, the duty deputy airport manager, there were about 50 passengers on board when it landed. Some of them are still on board the airliner. As it transpired, Zaur Bediya, Zviad Gamsakhurdia's pilot, whose pilot's license was revoked a month ago, was at the controls of the TU-134.

As a TASS correspondent was informed by Zaur Mesabilishvili, Georgia's deputy permanent representative in Moscow, the aircraft arrived in the capital via the Sukhumi-Groznyy-Moscow route to take home 40 people who had been staging actions in solidarity with Zviad Gamsakhurdia there. The pilot, Zaur Bediya, against whom a criminal case had been opened earlier, was arrested at Vnukovo and taken to Tbilisi on a special flight. However, those on board demanded his immediate release and refused to leave the aircraft.

Presence in Groznyy Unconfirmed

LD2801172892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Tengiz Sigua, prime minister of the Georgian transitional government, reported at a news conference in Tbilisi yesterday that Zviad Gamsakhurdia was in Groznyy. However, Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, have an evasive answer to a question from our correspondent about whether Zviad Gamsakhurdia and his family were in Groznyy, stating that he did not yet have any information at his disposal. Shamil Beno, the republic's minister of foreign affairs, did not confirm the news of Gamsakhurdia's presence in Groznyy either, although he did not deny it. At the same time Shamil Beno handed to the correspondent a copy of a hand-written appeal from Gamsakhurdia to the United Nations and the peoples and governments of all countries calling for the major violations of human rights in Georgia perpetrated by the military junta to be exposed and urging that the restoration of the constitutionally elected authorities in the republic be demanded.

Chechen Officials Refuse Comment

OW2801234792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chechen agencies contacted by IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent on Tuesday [28 January], such as President Dudayev's office and the parliamentary press center, declined to reveal the whereabouts of the deposed Georgian president Zviad Gamsakhurdia. They only said that it was up to Gamsakhurdia himself to give or withhold information as to his whereabouts.

On Monday [27 January] the head of Georgia's provisional government Tengiz Sigua told newsmen that the ex-president was in the capital of Chechnia. He added though that the Chechen authorities did not confirm this officially.

Interviewed in Western Region

LD2901112692 Moscow TASS in English 1108 GMT 29 Jan 92

["Urgent" report; by TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—"It is not true that I have been deposed. Legally, I am still the president. I have been elected by the people. I have not renounced my presidency or submitted my resignation," Georgian President Zviad Gamsaskhurdia told TASS today.

"It should not be said that I am an ousted president," he said.

"I intend to continue to fight...," he vowed.

Opposition forces that have come to power in Tbilisi are a "self-proclaimed military junta", he said.

Gamsakhurdia gave the interview on condition that his whereabouts were not revealed. TASS can only reveal that the interview was taken in western Georgia.

[Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1000 GMT on 29 January adds in similar report on the TASS interview: "Gamsakhurdia reported that he wrote an appeal to the United Nations and to the governments and peoples of the world in which he calls for the current Georgian authorities to be boycotted; for no links to be maintained with them; for establishing legality and legal power; and for normal life in Georgia to be aided."]

Government Troops Enter Zugdidi

LD2901105792 Moscow TASS in English 1047 GMT 29 Jan 92

["Urgent" report; by TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 29 TASS—Georgian Government troops entered the West Georgian city of Zugdidi, controlled by forces loyal to ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, on Tuesday [28 January] night.

After a brief shoot-out, in which three people were injured, national guard units and Mkhedrioni fighters gained control of Zugdidi and stabilisation has already begun there, officials in Georgia's ruling military council told TASS.

There is no contact with Zugdidi and TASS has been unable to confirm the information. On Tuesday, Zugdidi city prefect Indiko Kobaliya said Gamsakhurdia loyalist will defend the city to the end.

Rally Held 'Without Excesses'

LD2801155292 Moscow TASS in English 1425 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishuili and Albert Kochetov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 28 TASS—Today's rally of Gamsakhurdia's supporters outside the building of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers, which houses the Military Council and the republican provisional government, has passed without excesses. About 1,500 people carrying posters gathered near the entrance to the building. They demanded that the state of emergency be lifted and human rights respected.

The official authorities do not react to the rally. Work goes on in the building of the Cabinet of Ministers as usual.

Sigua on Peaceful Settlement

AU2801174392 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1532 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Negotiations between Gamsakhurdia's supporters and representatives of the provisional government and military council are now under way in Zugdidi. Subdivisions of the National Guard and [word indistinct] are presently 15-20 kilometers away from Zugdidi. However, we hope, stressed [acting Georgian Prime Minister] Tengiz Sigua at a news conference held yesterday, that, as a result of the negotiations, a compromise will be reached and the conflict will be settled by peaceful means.

Government, South Ossetia Said To Seek Peace

South Ossetians Agree To Meet

LD2501190292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1829 GMT 25 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Voronek]

[Text] Tbilisi, 25 Jan (TASS)—Preliminary talks between the Georgian and Ossetian sides took place today in South Ossetia near Tskhinval. Representatives attending the talks agreed on an official meeting to take place in the near future. It is anticipated that that meeting will examine issues connected with a peaceful settlement of the conflict between the two peoples. A TASS correspondent was told this by Ramin Chilidze of the Georgian provisional government's press center.

Meeting Held

LD2601120392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] According to reports from the Information Committee press center in Vladikavkaz, a lessening of tension in inter-ethnic relations is observed in South Ossetia.

According to local observers, this is connected with the fact that the Ministry of Internal Affairs set up here is taking the situation in hand.

According to data which has not been confirmed by the Supreme Soviet of the South Ossetian republic, on 25 January in the environs of Tskhinval, a meeting took place between representatives of the Ossetian public and the Georgian side at which a cessation of the armed conflict in South Ossetia, the lifting of the blockade around Tskhinval, and the Georgian side's attitude to the referendum in South Ossetia was discussed. It is assumed that this meeting should give a favorable impulse to official negotiations between the Ossetian and Georgian sides.

Negotiations Possible

LD2701112292 Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 27 TASS—Reports attesting to the stabilisation of the socio-political situation are coming from South Ossetia. The past day was relatively quiet throughout the region, including the approaches to Tskhinvali and populated localities in the Znauri district, where the situation was particularly acute.

The press centre of the information committee reported that there were neither exchanges of fire, nor clashes of the warring sides. Only on the outskirts of villages of the Gori district several shots were fired. Casualties are not reported.

The reason for this lull is that the first round of negotiations between the Ossetian and Georgian sides may be held this week. Representatives of the Ossetian and Georgian public met near Tskhinvali on January 25.

Issues related to ending the armed conflict in South Ossetia, lifting the economic and transport blocade on Tskhinvali and the attitude of the new Georgian authorities to the referendum in South Ossetia may be discussed, local observers believe. The latter issue is perhaps the most complicated one, since a referendum on

South Ossetia's reunification with Russia evoked a negative reaction in Tbilisi. The Georgian authorities assessed it as an encroachment on Georgia's territorial integrity.

The attitude of the Russian parliament to the referendum is yet unknown in Tskhinvali. People in North Ossetia and South Ossetia feel anxious over reports that the ousted Georgian president Zviad Gamsakhurdia responsible for the genocide in South Ossetia may be staying at a short distance, in the neighbouring Chechen republic. And this would aggravate tension in the north Caucasian region.

While there are encouraging reports from South Ossetia, the situation regarding Tskhinvali remains complicated. Electricity, gas, water and heating are not supplied to the administrative centre. All the roads round Tskhinvali, except for the 28-kilometres-long highland road across the Zar village, are controlled by the Georgian side.

Units of Ossetian guards, engineer troops and interior troops are clearing the Dzhava-Tskhinvali main route. Convoys of vehicles with humanitarian aid from North Ossetia will be heading for Tskhinvali along the road in a few days.

Government on 'Peaceful Settlement'

PM2801124192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[David Mdivani report: "South Ossetia: Hopes for a Peaceful Outcome"]

[Text] Republic of Georgia—A meeting between parliamentarians from the interim government and representatives of the Ossetian side was held Saturday [25 January] in the outskirts of Tskhinvali, during which there was a discussion of the date for the beginning of talks on a peaceful settlement of the so-called "Ossetian" conflict. Nobody is deluding themselves with the hope that the talks will proceed easily when both sides are capable of making lots of mutual claims. However, the first steps have already been taken.

The present Georgian Government is counting on a peaceful settlement to the conflict issues it has inherited. The former president's armed supporters, who are in fighting mood, are no exception. The government continues to persist in trying to hold talks with the former president's supporters. In certain areas this work has been crowned with success. However, it has been possible to establish from unofficial sources that, seeing the pointlessness of opposing the new republic leadership, Z. Gamsakhurdia's supporters are switching to guerrilla warfare and going underground.

Certain facts concerning Gamsakhurdia's spending spree have been confirmed. Added to reports about two armored Mercedes cars which cost the republic treasury $420,000, is information about another two new motor vehicles manufactured in the United States.

South Ossetian Denies Talks

OW2901032192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Inal Mamiev, deputy chief of South Osset regional executive committee, denied reports by a nunber of mass media that Georgia is in talks with South Ossetia.

According to Mamiev, the information is wrong and no negotiations are on the horizon.

Fighting Near Tskhinvali

LD2901110492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1007 GMT 29 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 29 Jan (TASS)—The South Ossetian information committee press center reports that the opposing sides have again exchanged fire on the distant approaches to Tskhinvali and in Znaurskiy rayon. Housing districts, settlements, and internal troop checkpoints were deliberately targeted from the outskirts of Nikozi and Tamarasheni villages for three hours. Ossetian guard detachments returned fire. There is no information on casualties.

There is no electricity, gas, or water, and industrial enterprises, construction organizations, transportation, and the railway station are not working in Tskhinvali. The town is also experiencing food and medicine shortages.

Importance of Military in Republic Discussed

PM2401113192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jan 92 Single Edition p 2

[Article by correspondents Captain First Rank A. Pilipchuk and Captain Third Rank V. Yermolin: "Last Argument to Which People Resort When Law Is Silent. And Then Shots Are Heard"]

[Excerpts] Georgia has given us an example of the result of the inability of parliament and executive power to guard the Constitution and laws from encroachments. When it is "the man with the gun" who starts to make policy in the country, one should not count on professional execution. In a state brought to the point of frenzy by the improvisations of the supreme power and in which incompetence becomes universal, anything is possible and, saddest of all, "policy by other means" is possible. [passage omitted]

The political situation in Georgia in the past three years has undoubtedly developed according to its own original scenario but with a leitmotiv that is common to all former republics of the Union. And this leitmotiv can be designated with relative accuracy in two words: anticommunism and anti-Sovietism. The rise to power of Gamsakhurdia, like many present state leaders in the former

USSR, proceeded successfully under these two sails. He was the perfect answer to the masses' expectations as the absolute opposite of the party leaders of the departing era of developed socialism. He was educated, cultured, a linguist, and had known deprivation and prison. In a country in which it is considered normal for even the foreign minister to have no knowledge of English, the polyglot Gamsakurudia was destined to be worshipped and trusted by the masses.

Today everyone is constantly asking themselves: How could this happen—that civilized Georgia, with its enormous intellectual potential, should, like some banana republic, be overthrowing its legally elected president with fire and thunder?

We wondered the same thing during a meeting with Mr. Sigua. He replied that on the morning of 22 December he himself was not even thinking of such a storm, of overthrowing the president. The logic of political changes recently in the republic attested to Gamsakhurdia's imminent defeat in the arena of parliamentary struggle. The number of his supporters among political circles had melted away rapidly. In Sigua's opinion by mid-February at the latest Gamsakhurdia would have been deprived of power, having lost the majority of votes in parliament. But we now know that events developed according to a far from peaceful scenario. [passage omitted].

Sigua's cabinet, despite all its temporary nature, has a serious program for restoring the exhausted and anemic Georgian economy. It includes gradual privatization, the transfer of land to the ownership of the peasants, and the encouragement of private enterprise.

The new cabinet's plans do not include any serious military building program. The present temporary acting defense minister, Lieutenant General Levan Sharashenidze, told us that his ministry is by no means concerned with how to military Georgia. The republic cannot afford a regular army and it does not accord with the political priorities of the authorities which are being formed. National guard formations will be retained and increased to a numerical strength of several thousand. On questions of the defense of its borders against an outside threat the government, as Tengiz Kitovani mentioned in particular, is counting on cooperation with the troops of the Transcaucasus Military District and the border troops.

Our meetings were in early January, when Zviad Gamsakhurdia was still only preparing for the assault on Zugdidi region. But even then none of our interlocutors considered the grim option for political repartition that is civil war to be a possibility. The general opinion was the resistance to the "Gamsakhurdists," if it was possible, would be of a clan-based nature and consequently doomed to defeat. The subtext was that the people were not with it. But for all the lively and welcoming background of Tbilisi and the enthusiasm of the mass media and optimism of the new leaders we nonetheless do not venture to assert that the majority of the Georgian population has already determined who they like and who they dislike. Moreover, one can clearly discern the unequivocal condemnation of the sides which have used weapons. We sense a certain psychological barrier which it will obviously be hard for a considerable number of Georgia's inhabitants to overcome before they finally trust Tengiz Sigua and his team. It may even come to pass that the republic will truly acquire unity only when people whose names are not associated with the December bloodshed come to power.

It is hard to say what the spectrum of the republic's political life will be in the next few months. At any rate it has been publicly stated that representatives of all parties registered at the Ministry of Justice can take part in the forthcoming parliament elections. That includes the parties belonging to the "Roundtable-Free Georgia" ruling bloc. Only one man is excluded—Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Incidentally, even the communist party if, as Sigua said, "anyone wants to create such a party," is not banned from joining the political rapids. So far no one anxious to create such a party is to be seen.

The joint struggle against the dictatorship in no way means that the victorious forces will henceforth march hand in hand. For instance, the Georgian National Congress, whose leader, Irakliy Tsereteli, has always been distinguished by a consistent intolerance for everything connected with the concept of the Soviet Union, will obviously try to claim the role of flagship on the political voyage. It is not ruled out that the very first sitting of the newly elected parliament will announce the restoration of the Georgian Democratic Republic and its 1921 Constitution.

Perhaps it was in expectation of this act that Tengiz Sigua is so cautious when he is asked by journalists about Georgia joining the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. We think the premier would be far more categorical if it were a case of a harmonious Union of states whose political and economic prospects were sufficiently clear and guaranteed.

In turn the restraint of Colonel General V. Patrikeyev, commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, is also understandable when in a talk with us he assessed the new possible mutual relations between the republic's government and the army. The general hopes for an improvement in these relations and more than anything is counting on the legal definition of the status of the troops in the Transcaucasus.

Everyone agrees that the army acted wisely in not allowing itself on this occasion to be drawn into the solution of Georgia's internal problems. Everyone, that is, except Gamsakhurdia's supporters. Turning to the "occupying" troops for help and learning of the army's neutrality, the president put forward the "streamlined" hypothesis that "a plot has been provoked by the imperial forces backed by the top people in the Russian parliament, in particular there is indirect proof that this plot is headed not by

Shevardnadze but by Russian Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis." This was stated to correspondents of the district newspaper VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI who had gotten into the Government House bunker on the eve of the president's hasty departure.

No, it would be too optimistic to say that the source which generated hostility toward the former Soviet Army and toward the district servicemen has already dried up. In particular on the square near the station where several hundred of the president's supporters had assembled, excited people shouted in our faces: "If the army had not remained in the barracks, so many people would not have died! You could have stopped the bloodshed and you did not!" and so on—about imperial interests, Yeltsin's perfidy, and other ammunition consisting of already well-known arguments. And so, a new score to settle? A new spiral of serious accusations? Is this a special feature of the "trouble spots" whereby the army is always marginalized in any disposition of opposing forces?

Nonetheless, there are hopes for better. Tengiz Sigua has commented repeatedly in the most flattering terms in recent days on the position of the Transcaucasus Military District troops during the storming of Government House. And he told us that the government has done everything for the legal protection of the district troops in Georgia. We have not a shadow of doubt as to the sincerity of Mr. Premier but, considering the highly volatile political situation in the republic, we shall nonetheless restrict ourselves to the Russian saying: "We shall wait and see."

And so Georgia, at the price of its sons' lives, has taught us all a lesson: If the knots tied by politicians start to be loosened by the "man with the gun," there is always the danger of a tragic outcome. With our painfully and slowly maturing democracies not one of the former Union republics is protected from such disruption. And he who today, using supreme power and the people's trust, regards it as a trifle to transgress the law yet again and to "touch up" the Constitution in passing and who shuts the opposition's mouth and teaches freedom of speech to the press, should know that desperate people are not very discriminating in their choice of means. It is most terrible of all when the army becomes desperate.

Three Political Parties Registered

AU2401175092 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] In accordance with the 10 August 1991 Republic of Georgia Law on Political Associations of Citizens, the Georgian Ministry of Justice, by the resolution of its board issued on 23 January 1992, legally registered the People's Front of Georgia, the Social Democratic Party, and the Democratic Party of Georgia.

Estonia

New Leader Meets Press, Discusses Goals

OW2901000192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1402 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian transport and communications minister, Mr. Tiit Vahi, has given an interview for the press in which he said he would be forming a provisional government for which overcoming the grave food and fuel crisis would be the main purpose.

In Mr. Vahi's opinion immediate political measures should above all include the adoption of a new constitution and a law on Estonian citizenship, and an election to a new parliament, the State Council. According to different estimates, such an election may be held in two to six months' time.

Mr. Vahi, whose appointment as prime minister was approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Council yesterday, was today going to begin consultations with various political forces as a step in the forming of a new government, for which he has two weeks in accordance with the existing regulations.

Tiit Vahi was born on January 10, 1947, in Valga District in Estonia and was trained in precision mechanical engineering at the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute from which he graduated in 1970. In 1972-89 he worked in a motor depot in Valga. From June to December 1989 he was Chairman of the State Committee on Transport of the Estonian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], and from January 1990 has held the post of Estonia's Transport and Communications Minister. Mr. Vahi is married and has two children.

Further on Continuing Search For Oil Supplies

Russian Pledge Signed

OW2401214092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1823 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a Russian-Estonian protocol on mutual shipments for 1992 signed by Russian Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar on January 22 Russia pledges to supply oil to Estonia for $127 a ton [as received], diesel fuel—$200 a ton and black oil—$72. This information was provided to BF [BALTFAX] by Director of "Estontoplivo" state-owned company Eesti Kutus. He also said that Estonia favors settling in rubles at current exchange rates. (As is known, Estonia plans to carry out a monetary reform).

Estonia has been facing deep fuel crisis for already several months.

Agreement Reached

LD2801134192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] An agreement has been reached with the (Rosnefteprodukt) concern to allow to begin the loading of liquefied fuel consignments to be dispatched to Estonia in the first quarter. This was reported to ETA in Moscow by Oleg Panfilov, director general of the Estonian Fuel Authority.

For the time being accounts will be kept at provisionally agreed prices because the signing of interstate price agreements is dragging on.

Further on Russian Agreement

OW2901031792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1848 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Director General of "Eesti Kutus" (Estontoplivo) state-owned enterprise Oleg Panfilov suggested in an interview with BF [BALTFAX] that within days Russia will start supplying fuel to Estonia. A trade agreement for the first quarter of 1992 envisaging mutual shipments worth $63.2 million was concluded last week. Estonia will provide Russia with electric power and foodstuffs.

Fuel will be supplied to Estonia at Russian prices and export tariffs imposed by Russia last week. Panfilov said that in the first quarter of the year Estonia will have to pay 2 billion rubles of customs tariffs on fuel alone. Preliminary reports say prices of fuels imported from Russia will be as follows:

Diesel fuel and gasoline A-76—12-13 rubles a liter.
Gasoline AI-93—over 15 rubles a liter.
Black oil—5000 rubles a ton [as received].

Government Discusses Food, Fuel Supplies

LD2801152192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Today's gowernment session, chaired by Economy Minister Jaak Leimann—heard information heard about foodstuffs and fuel supplies. EC food aid is about to arrive in Estonia; in conjunction with our own stocks it will make it possiible to meet 80 percent of the wheat flour needs of the baking and confectionery industry until the new harvest. The government acknowledged again that the milk and meat situation in Tallinn remains acute. In connection with the low level of livestock procurement, the Tallinn meat combine is working only two days a week. The government considered it important to continue seeking possibilities for paying the producers a procurement price which would satisfy them.

The government decided to allocate $500,000 for the purchase of natural gas from Russia beyond the agreed levels. Next week: representatives of the Ministry of

Industry and Energy and the Estonian Gas enterprise will go to Tyumen to hold talks to establish direct links with gas producers. The government decided to lend 150,000 Finnish marks from the state's hard-currency reserves to the Estonian Loto state joint-stock company for setting up a lottery system in Estonia. Two million Finnish marks were allocated for the production of glass bottles and jars at Jarvakandi works. The Republic of Estonia Olympic delegation at Albertville Winter Olympics have been handed $9,000.

Possibility of Future Talks With Russia Viewed

LD2801132992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The Foreign Commission of the Estonian Supreme Council and Oleg Popovich, Russian charge d'affaires ad interim in the Republic of Estonia, believe that any kind of government changes will have a negative effect on Estonian-Russian talks. Estonian-Russian political and economic relations and the possibilities for continuing talks were discussed at their meeting today at the foreign commission. This was reported to ETA by the press service of the Estonian Supreme Council.

According to Oleg Popovich, the domestic situation in Russia is more serious than it seems in the press. There is support for Boris Yeltsin's political direction, but there is criticism of his economic activity. And it is not at all certain that in the near future, the Russian Government will not be replaced. According to Tiit Made, deputy chairman of the Foreign Commission, it is clear that the composition of the Estonian Government delegation for the talks with Russia will be altered. Thus the expected arrival of a Russian delegation in Estonia on Thursday [30 January] will be little more than an expression of goodwill, as there is nobody to talk to.

Delegation's Arrival Delayed

OW2901032092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1848 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An official representative of Russia in Estonia Oleg Popovich told BF [BALTFAX] that the arrival of a Russian delegation for talks on the withdrawal of troops has been delayed for a few days. The delegation led by Russian State Adviser Sergey Shakhray and Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev was expected to arrive in Tallinn on January 28. However, Popovich said that Shakhray had got sick.

Popovich also noted that after the resignation of the Savisaar government it became unclear whom Russia should hold talks with. (The Estonian parliament charged the government with holding talks with Russia—BF).

Head of the coordinating bureau for talks Ago Tiimann told BF that after consultations with a parliamentary commission on foreign relations it was decided that the present delegation will hold talks until a new government is appointed.

Conscription Legislation Passed for Males

OW2901003192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1402 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yesterday the Estonian parliament passed legislation on national service introducing conscription for all men between the ages of 18 and 28 permanently resident in Estonia. There will be labour conscription for those who cannot serve in the Defence Forces for religious or moral reasons. The maximum duration of military service will be 18 months, that of alternative service, 24 months.

Operations With Former Union Bank Halted

OW2401213492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1823 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Savings Bank spokeswoman Malle Radionova told BF [BALTFAX] that starting from January 25 all operations with securities of the former Soviet Union will be stopped. In fact, this resolution was passed by the Estonian government January 21 before sending in its resignation January 23. Radionova said that the bank "will not conduct any operations until the situation becomes clear."

Delegation Leaves for Siberia for Coal, Oil

OW2501214792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1535 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An Estonian delegation led by Riho Sild, deputy minister of industry and power engineering, set out on Saturday [25 January] on a trip to Siberia to discuss with the administrators of the Kemerovo region and Novokuznetsk the possibility of purchasing half a million tons [as received] of coal and an equal amount of fuel oil.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Albania

LD2601141892 Tallinn Estonian Radio in Finnish 1600 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Estonia and Albania have established diplomatic relations.

According to the Estonian Foreign Ministry, the relevant documents have already been exchanged in Stockholm.

Lithuania

Sejm Views Possible Communist Coup

LD2801230192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Lithuania's political forces of various orientations assembled at their forums in Vilnius today. The Lithuanian consultative Sejm discussed a possible communist coup.

In a interview with Lithuanian Radio, Algirdas [?Gancleris] stated that the consultative Sejm has some information concerning preparations for such a coup. According to him, the danger to Lithuania this time arises not from abroad, but from within the country.

According to the consultative Sejm chairman, Lithuanian laws are being ignored, old [?initiatives] hinder economic reform, and one talks about a return to a political system through new agricultural enterprise names alone.

Deputy Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Kazimieras Motieka and Deputy Prime Minister Zigmas Vaisvila participated at the consultative Sejm session.

Council Adopts Law on Population Register

PM2801113092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Nikolay Lashkevich report: "Lithuania: Citizens Receive Personal Code Number"]

[Text] Vilnius—The Lithuanian Supreme Council, for the first time in the experience of the former Union republics, has adopted a law on a population register.

The traditional methods of collecting statistical data on the population constitute an extremely labor-intensive process. The new law makes it possible to resolve many problems and creates an automatic record-keeping system whereby information on every inhabitant of the republic is stored in a data bank. The law stipulates the information to be entered on the register: Surname, forename, patronymic, address, citizenship, year of birth, family status, education, profession, place of work, military obligation—in short, all the questionnaire data we are used to.

Each individual will receive a personal code number. It consists of more than 10 digits, each of which denotes one point in the questionnaire. The code will be recorded on your passport, birth certificate, state social insurance card, driver's license, and other documents.

Some politicians in Lithuania have expressed misgivings that such concentrated records could be used as a source of information for various services, in particular for compiling lists of dissidents—that is, they could be directed against freedom of the individual. However, the law regulates these matters quite clearly. It is important only to adhere strictly to legislative norms. The law's implementation will not affect the human rights sphere.

The law was also adopted hastily because soon citizens of the republic will be issued with Lithuanian passports, showing the code. The first 32-page Lithuanian Republic passports are expected to be issued to citizens in February. Their first holders will be athletes who are to leave for the winter Olympics in Albertville at the end of January. The Lithuanian passport allows the holder to travel all over the world and not for nothing does it allow 20 pages for visas. Passports showing the personal code are to be issued to all citizens of Lithuania by 1 July 1993. The hammer and sickle version is now part of history....

Government Session Discusses Economic Reform

PM2801125192 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 17 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Republic Government"]

[Text] On 15 January a government session chaired by Gediminas Vagnorius discussed more than 10 questions regulating the acceleration of economic reform and the improvement of the activity of individual ministries and departments, and adopted corresponding resolutions.

With the aim of strengthening the executive's influence in the implementation of agrarian reform, the government approved a draft resolution on amending the Law on the Fundamentals of Local Self-Government, making provisions for a new procedure for appointing and dismissing certain officials of the regional link in the chain of administrative command. The draft will be submitted to the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Council.

In view of the fact that a Lithuanian national bureau of Interpol has been set up and the republic Ministry of Internal Affairs is being reorganized, the republic Ministry of Internal Affairs approved new Statutes of the Police Department. Certain amendments were made to the rules for privatizing the state and social housing stocks.

The government session also adopted resolutions on other questions.

In recent times inhabitants of Lithuania have often asked about the way trade in meat products will be implemented. The government announces that it is planned to sell meat products against general purpose coupons in February also. Therefore, at the beginning of next month every inhabitant will receive the appropriate quantity of coupons. Tobacco products will also be sold against general purpose coupons in February.

According to Lithuanian Republic Government Resolution N.592 of 30 December 1991 "On the Procedure for Organizing Trade and Settlements," inhabitants of Lithuania can use general purpose coupons to purchase industrial goods up to 20 January 1992. In view of the

fact that not everyone has yet managed to obtain the goods they require against the coupons, this term is being extended to 1 February.

Banking institutions continue to change citizens' general purpose coupons for rubles at the official exchange rate. In addition, anyone wishing to do so can transfer up to 4,000 general purpose coupons to an investment account at a fixed exchange rate. For this it is necessary to present coupons issued according to one's place of work and receive the relevant certificate, ratified by the leader of the enterprise and the main finance officer (accountant). Inhabitants can present these coupons at any time convenient to them at the banking institution, where an investment account will be opened in their name.

For people interested in safeguarding their ruble savings from devaluation, the government is proposing to transfer their savings to investment accounts within quota limits. Rubles transferred to investment accounts are already a different currency—investment currency. They are detached from the general ruble mass and, by being used in the process of privatization to acquire real estate, they can be converted without excess difficulties into national or other convertible currency.

In fulfillment of the Lithuanian Republic Government Resolution N.464 of 13 November "On the Liberalization of Prices and Tariffs and Regulation of Pricing in the Republic," ordinance N.23p of 10 January 1992 establishes that private vehicles delivered against interstate contracts from the republics of the former USSR in 1992 are to be sold to inhabitants of Lithuania at auctions or by other methods at market prices. It lays down that, should the need arise, the Ministry of Trade and Material Resources will organize auctions to sell private vehicles according to the procedure for selling goods at auctions established by the Lithuanian Government. Vehicles can be sold only to Lithuanian citizens who have not acquired a private vehicle in the last five years through state trade organizations.

The Ministry of Social Protection, in conjunction with the Ministry of the Economy, is due to establish a procedure for selling private vehicles to people on social support, envisaging discounts of 50 percent.

Private vehicles received from the market allocation delivered in 1991 are permitted to be sold to Lithuanian inhabitants before 1 February 1992 according to the procedure established in 1991.

Duties on Passports, Other Documents Amended

PM2801151592 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 17 Jan 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "On State Excise Duties. Additions and Amendments to One Resolution"]

[Text] On 8 January 1992 the Lithuanian Republic Government adopted resolution No. 7 "On Supplementing and Partially Amending Lithuanian Republic Government Resolution No. 314 of 31 July 1991, 'On State Excise Duties'".

From now on, for inviting relatives and acquaintances from abroad and the issuing of documents, citizens of the Lithuanian Republic will have to pay: 50 rubles [R] for temporary residence, R200 for permanent residence; when presenting a Lithuanian Republic immigration application form—$200 (or in another convertible currency—according to the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar).

The excise duty on the issue of a Lithuanian Republic citizen's passport will be R15, and to replace it in the event of a change of forename or surname (except for the change of surname as a result of marriage), or a change in the date of birth will cost R20; replacing the passport if it is unserviceable or is lost will cost R30; if all the pages designed for stamping visas are full, replacement will cost R50. For entering information about a citizen's place of permanent residence into the passport will cost R1. Furnishing information about a resident's address will cost R1 for private citizens, and R3 for organizations (except for those financed from the budget). The preparation of emigration documents will cost R200.

The excise duty payable on presentation of applications relating to the mass media will be: R1,000 for founding, R200 for reregistering in the case of a change of name or publisher; R100 for the issue of a duplicate certificate of foundation. The cost for obtaining advice on the protection of state secrets and items of information deemed not for publication (per printed sheet) will be R20. Issue of permits to acquire cartridges and explosives will cost R10; firearms R30, and to extend such permits will cost R10. The issue of permits for the manafacture of seals bearing the Lithuanian State coat of arms will cost R15.

The resolution enters into force on 17 January 1992.

Russia Asked To Peacefully Resolve Conflicts

OW2901003492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1402 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Vice-Premier Zigmas Vaisvila has called on the Russian Government and the command of the Commonwealth Armed Forces to refrain from the use of armed force in resolving conflicts. According to a telegram he sent to Moscow, his appeal was prompted by an incident which had taken place on January 23, when an inspecting vessel of the Lithuanian Environment Protection Department came across Russian boats fishing illegally in Lithuanian waters. The Lithuanian officials attempted to take one of the Russian boats with them to the Klaipeda port but were prevented by Commonwealth naval ships which had come to the Russians' rescue at the latter's call.

Presidium on Reaction to 'Urgent Matters'

LD2201014792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The Supreme Council Presidium has urged parliamentary deputies to react to life's urgent matters more swiftly and to improve local governing appropriately.

In an appeal published by the Presidium today, it is stated, among other things, that although the fundamental laws consolidating statehood have been adopted already, life dictates the supplement and correction of earlier decisions. Postponement and sluggish reaction to the demands raised by life undermines reforms, gives rise to irritation, and unnecessary passions, the document states.

The parliamentary Presidium believes this tension may be mollified by correcting or supplementing, without delay, the laws that are especially important to Lithuania's political or economic life and also by assessing differing opinions more gently.

The Presidium proposes adoption of the new wording of the Law on Local Government as one of the most important jobs to be carried out without delay.

Canada Urges Vilnius To Repay External Debt

OW2101144192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1350 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gediminas Sersnis, Lithuanian deputy foreign minister, is discussing on January 21, Canada's note to the Baltic countries on the repayment of part of the Soviet Union's external debt. The discussion is in the republican parliament's foreign affairs commission.

The document insists that Lithuania's response to the note would determine whether Canada extends 10 million U.S. dollars in loans to Lithuania.

Gold Future Still 'Undecided' by Sweden

OW2801031492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on Lithuanian TV on Sunday [26 January], Vytautas Landsbergis said that now that France and Britain have positively decided the issue of the Lithuanian gold, "we are beginning to set our eyes across the Baltic". The Lithuanian leader explained that the future of Lithuania's gold was still undecided "by our good neighbors, the Swedes."

His adviser Ramunas Bogdanas told journalists in Vilnius on Monday [27 January] that during Landsbergis's recent visit to London the parties had agreed they had now property claims to each other. Mr. Bogdanas observed that "this is fully in Lithuania's interests, since before the war (WWII—IF [INTERFAX]) Britain owned property worth 830,000 pounds in Lithuania, while the latter's property in Britain was estimated only at 270,000 pounds".

Sweden To Support Europe Integration Aims

LD2801204192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1300 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorious has received a message from the Swedish prime minister stating that the Swedish government will support by every means Lithuania's aspirations to integrate into European political and economic structures.

The head of the Swedish government draws attention to the declaration on cooperation signed in Geneva on 10 December. On its basis Lithuania enjoys opportunities for closer relations with Europe's economy. The final aim, it is stated in the declaration, is free trade. However, Lithuania's integration is a gradual process which will depend on the success of the republic itself in the development of the economy of free enterprise and the market.

The Swedish government is ready to begin free trade with Lithuania and other Baltic states; this will be possible on the basis of interstate negotiations. The head of the foreign trade department, [words indistinct], has already proposed that negotiations on free trade take place. In the opinion of the Swedish premier, an agreement could be signed within two months.

Landsbergis To Attend Forum in Switzerland

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[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On January 30 Vytautas Landsbergis, head of the Lithuanian parliament, leaves for Davos, Switzerland, to take part in the world economic forum expected to attract reprsentatives of nearly 200 large companies and many prominent politicians. Mr Landsbergis is scheduled to stay in Switzerland till February 2.

Aurimas Taurantas, Lithuanian MP, told journalists that a Russian delegation led by Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray would visit Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius on January 28-30 for talks on the Soviet troop withdrawal from the Baltic states.

Valery Mironov, commander of the North-Western Military Group, was quoted as saying that the 806 military units currently stationed in the Baltics numbered a total of 128,000 servicemen, including 28,000 officers and 13,000 warrant officers.

Lithuania-Poland Amity Declaration Published

PM2801085792 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 16 Jan 92 p 6

["Declaration on Friendly Relations and Good-Neighborly Cooperation Between the Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland"]

[Text] The Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland,

guided by the principles of the UN Charter, and also by the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Paris Charter for a New Europe, and other acts from that conference;

with due account of the significance of Lithuanian-Polish relations for all-around cooperation in Central Europe, the Baltic region, and the whole continent;

feeling a common responsibility for peace, security, mutual understanding, and cooperation in a democratic and free Europe respectful of human rights;

recalling the best examples of good-neighborly accord;

with due consideration of the permanent contribution to the cultural development of both peoples, states, and the whole of Europe made by Lithuanians and Poles who have lived on each other's territories for many years:

convinced that present-day events in Lithuanian-Polish relations are not and will not be an obstacle, and will further cooperation between the Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland, and between the Lithuanian and Polish peoples;

and expressing satisfaction at the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries:

declare:

1. Mutual relations between the Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland are based on the principles of mutual recognition of states' independence, respect for international law and in particular, respect for each country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, equal rights, neighborly accord and mutually advantageous cooperation, the rights and basic freedoms of the individual, nonintervention in domestic affairs, and abstention from threats to use force, or its use.

2. The Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland have no territorial claims against each other and will not make such claims in the future. The Parties recognize the existing border demarcated on the territory as inviolable now and in the future, in accordance with the principles of the Helsinki Conference.

3. In policy relating to national minorities, the Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland will be guided by European norms enshrined in the corresponding documents from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Parties are confident that persons belonging to both minorities are and will remain loyal citizens of the states in which they live while at the same time preserving and developing their national identity, and that they will promote a genuine rapprochement between the Lithuanian and Polish peoples.

The Parties are convinced that their constructive cooperation in guaranteeing the rights of national minorities will be a significant contribution to the humanitarian dimension of the pan-European process.

Both Parties will strive to secure for the national minorities—Lithuanians in Poland, and Poles in Lithuania—the opportunity to satisfy fully linguistic, cultural, religious, and education requirements, including study in one's native language: This applies to all members of national minorities at all levels of education. Furthermore, both Parties will strive to provide them with guarantees against discrimination in political, social, and economic life, and to give them the opportunity for free links with the other side.

Both Parties assume mutual commitments to secure in accordance with each side's laws the right for national minority organizations and institutions to receive voluntary donations and social support. Both states will maintain an exchange of specialists in the sphere of culture, science, and education.

The Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland guarantee national minorities the right to use their given names and surnames in the form in which they are said and written in their native language, guided by the documents adopted at the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Guided by international standards, the Parties will abstain from actions which may prompt national upheaval on territories inhabited by national minorities.

The question of the citizenship [gosudarstvennaya prinadlezhnost] of national minorities living on the territory of either of the two states will be resolved in accordance with international law.

4. The Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland will preserve those monuments dedicated to the history and culture of both peoples located on their territories.

5. The Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland will work toward the most active and profound cooperation. Particular attention will be paid to creating propitious conditions for the all-around development of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, and contemporary forms of trade exchange based on the principle of mutual advantage.

To this end, the governments of the Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland will conclude a treaty on trade and economic cooperation.

Both states will create the legal bases for direct economic cooperation, including for direct cooperation between

enterprises. They will also exchange experience, help each other in training specialists, and accord other aid during the transition to a market economy.

6. The Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland will cooperate closely in the spheres of environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources, and strive to ensure bilateral ecological safety and together to block pollution, reduce it, and eradicate pollution which could have trans-territorial consequences. To this end, the two Parties will exchange information and consult periodically, especially on questions concerning the Baltic Sea.

7. The Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland have reestablished consular relations. They will broaden all-around cultural cooperation and cooperation on humanitarian questions: Likewise, it is intended to liberalize the principles of movement of citizens across borders.

Being concerned for the development of their cultural and scientific achievements, the Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland will set up centers for culture and cooperation—a Lithuanian one in Warsaw, and a Polish one in Vilnius.

8 The Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland will strive to extend mutual relations and to this end create the necessary conditions for direct links and cooperation between science and culture institutions, political, social, church, and religious organizations, trade unions, in order to reunite families and restore contacts between citizens of the two states. Cooperation in the border zone will be revitalized.

With due account of the special role of young people in forming relations of mutual understanding and rapprochement between the peoples of the two states, the governments of the Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland will conclude a treaty on youth cooperation and reciprocal exchanges.

9. The Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland will consult on all questions concerning their mutual relations: They will also cooperate in the international arena and consult on international problems of interest to both Parties.

Both Parties will cooperated in the Baltic Conference process.

10. The principles of this declaration will be developed and confirmed in a joint Treaty Between the Lithuanian Republic and the Republic of Poland

This Declaration was concluded in in Vilnius 13 January 1992: It comprises two copies—one in Lithuanian, and one in Polish—and both of these texts are equally valid.

Algirdas Saudargas, foreign minister of the Lithuanian Republic

Krzysztof Skubiszewski, foreign minister of the Republic of Poland

Parliament Announces Baltic Tour by Quayle

OW2901031992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1848 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle is to visit Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in early February. At a news briefing in the Lithuanian parliament January 28 press-attache Audrius Azubalis said that on February 7 Quayle is expected to deliver a speech near the Lithuanian parliament building on the Independence Square in Vilnius.

Azubalis also said that deputy of the German Bundestag, Chairman of the German Party of Democratic Socialism Gregor Gisy is currently visiting Lithuania. On January 27 he met with the leader of the Lithuanian Democratic Party of labor Algirdas Brazauskas. Gisy intends to meet representatives of other political parties of Lithuania, as well as leaders of 8 Lithuanian parliamentary factions.